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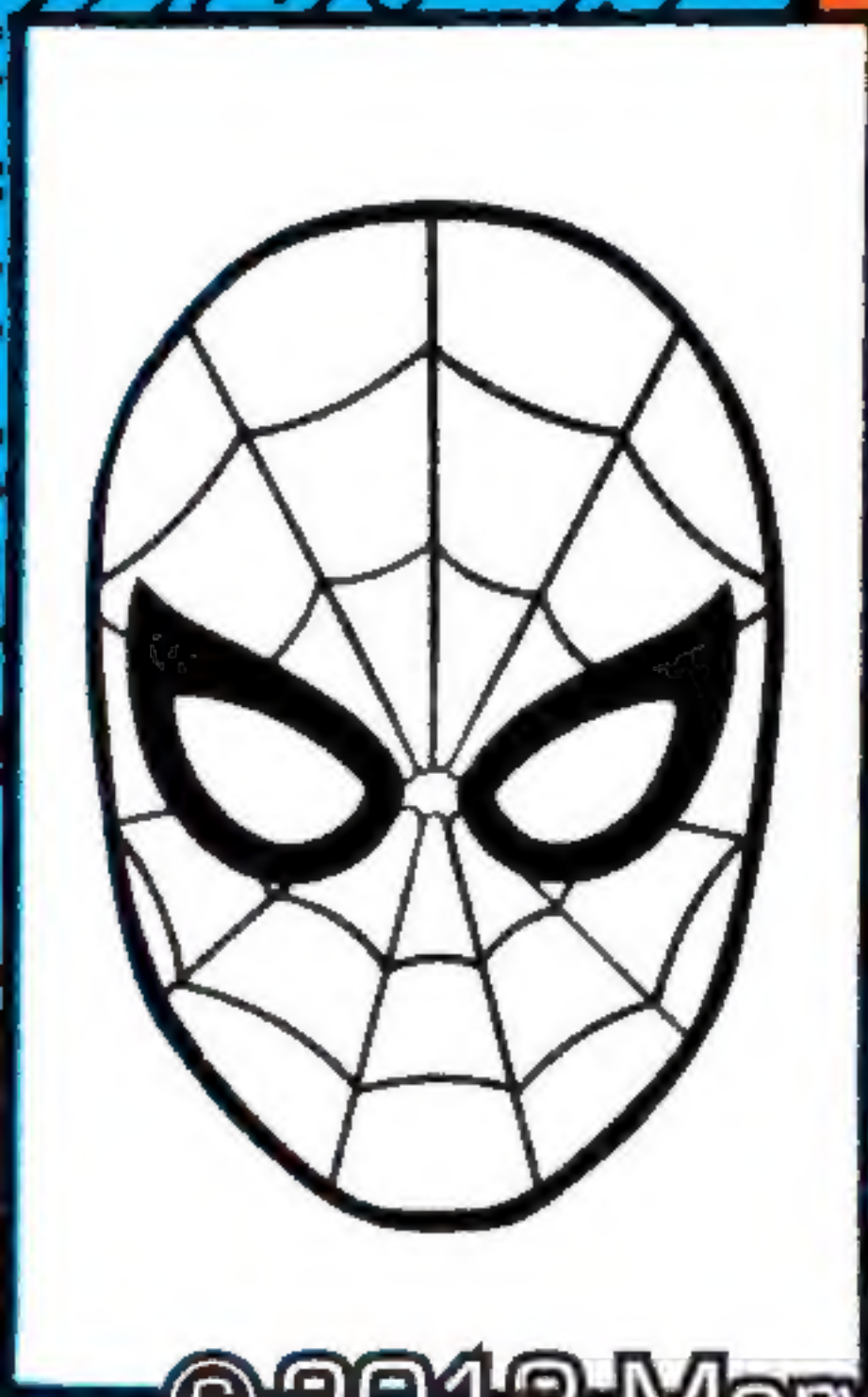
AUTHORITY

FIRST  
BLOOD

# X-TINCTION AGENDA

PART 2

# THE NEW MUTANTS



LIFE!

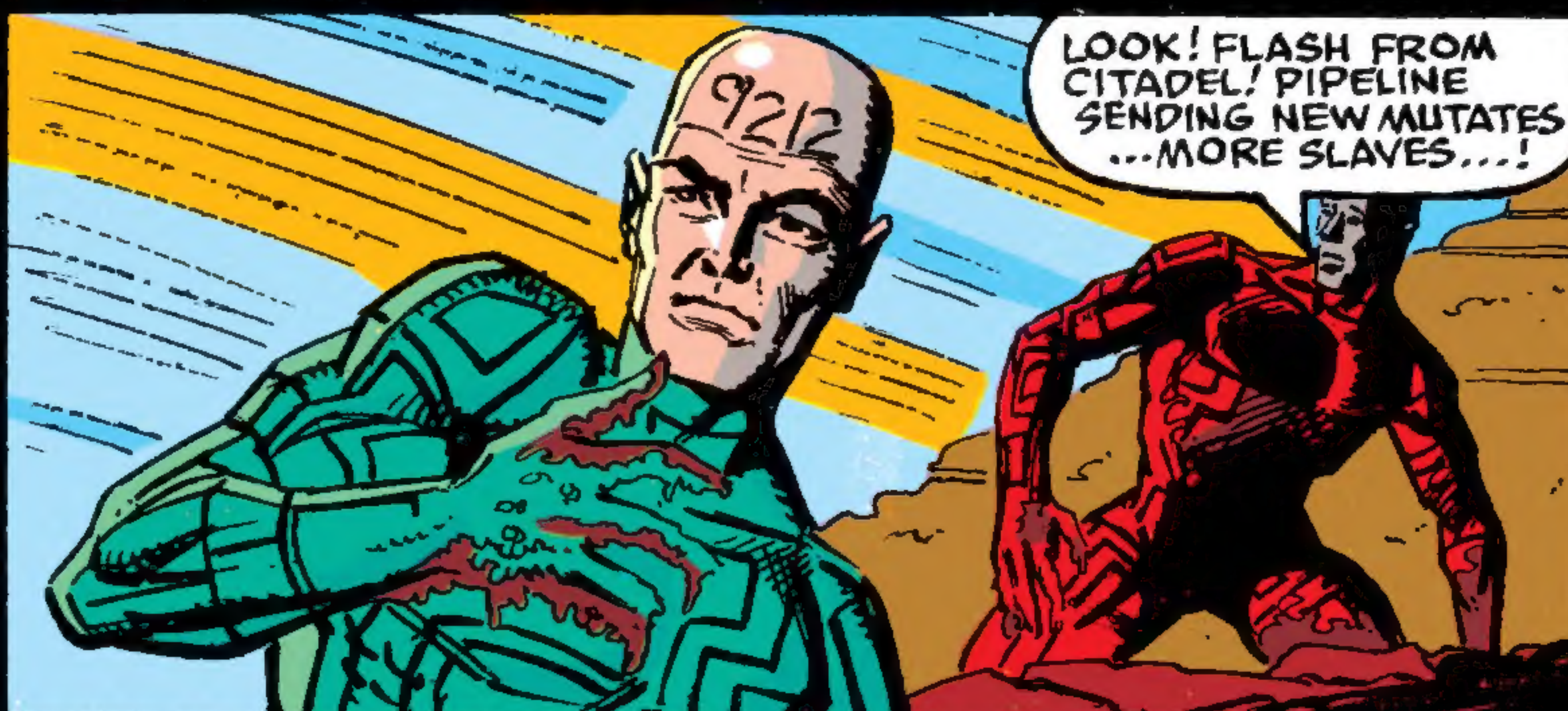


THIS IS GENOSHA,  
AN ISLAND NATION,  
LYING JUST EAST OF  
AFRICA. ONCE LITTLE  
MORE THAN A BARREN  
ROCK, LACKING EVEN  
THE MOST ELEMENTA-  
RY NATURAL RE-  
SOURCES...

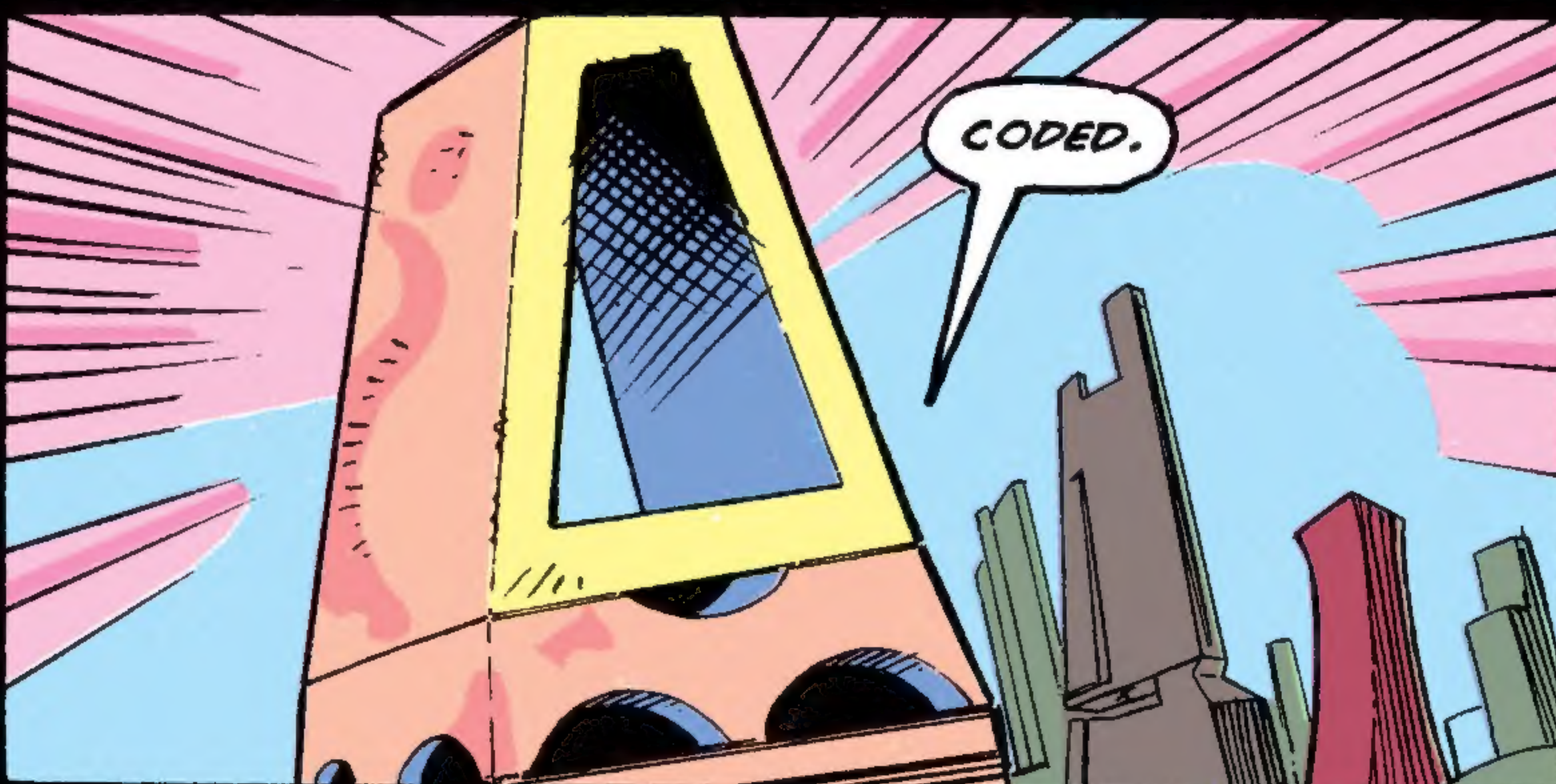


...IT IS NOW A PROSPEROUS JEWEL IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN, WHOSE POPULATION HAS  
ACHIEVED PROSPERITY DUE TO THE EFFORTS  
OF A RELATIVELY FEW SUPER-POWERED BEINGS.

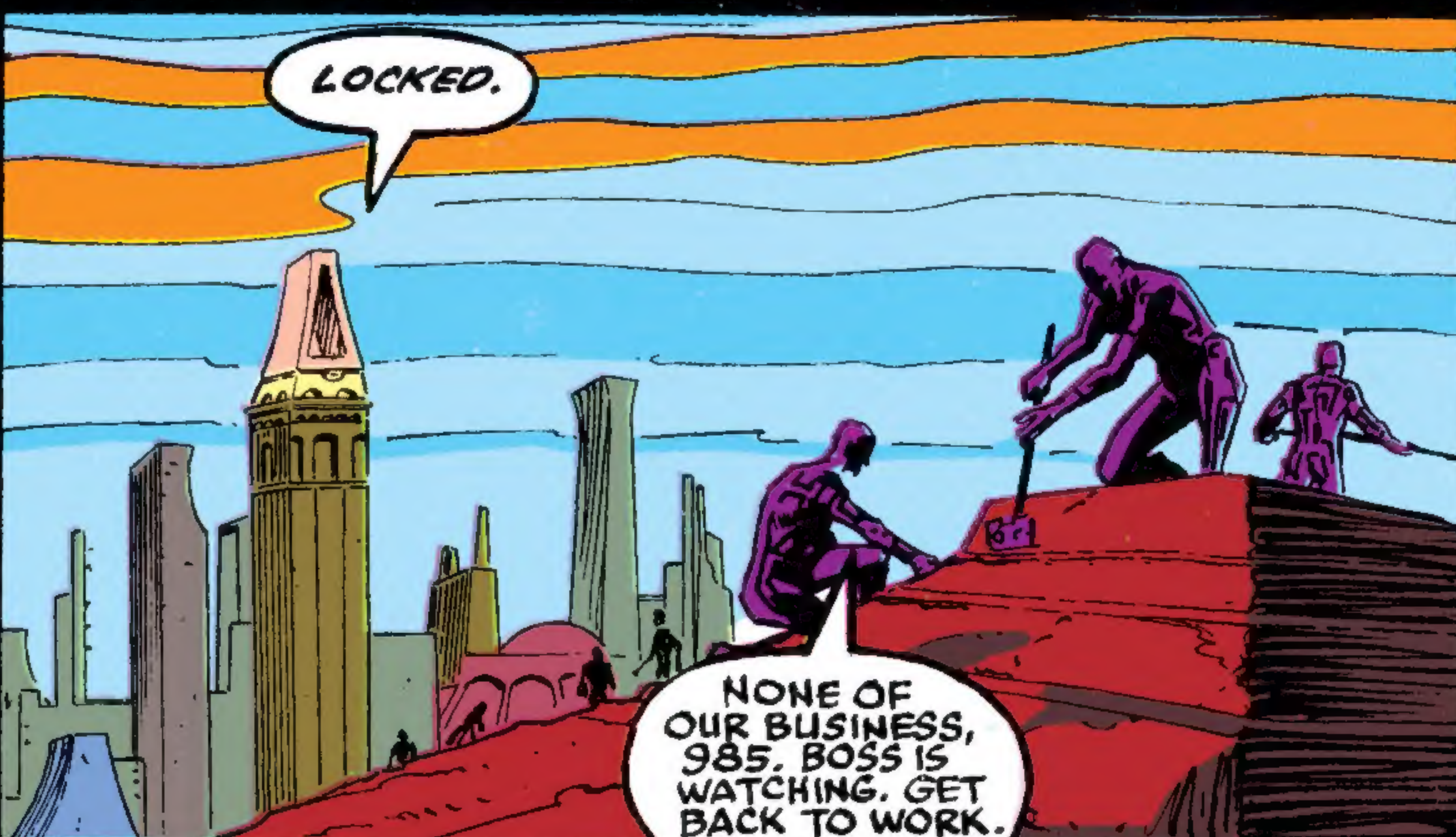
THESE ARE THE MUTATES,  
BIOENGINEERED CANDI-  
DATES WHOSE MINDS  
ARE WIPE CLEAN OF  
MEMORY, EVEN AS  
THEIR LATENT POWERS  
ARE ENCOURAGED,  
AND THEIR WILLS  
TURNED TO  
GOOD OF THE  
STATE...



...NAMELESS  
CREATURES  
WHOSE NUM-  
BERS DENOTE  
THEIR PLACE  
IN AN UN-  
NATURALLY  
ORDERED  
UNIVERSE.

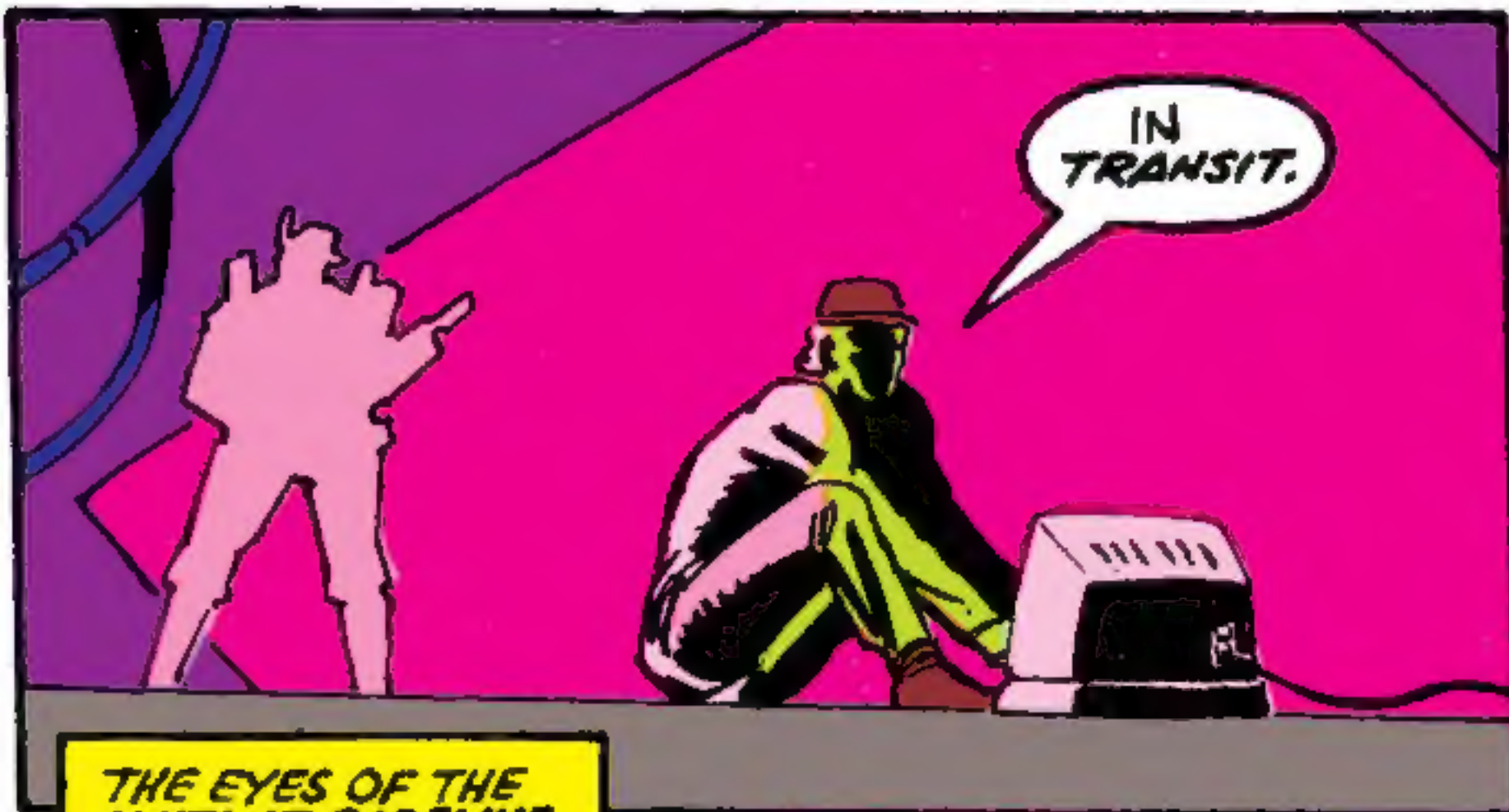


IT IS FROM THE  
CITADEL, HEAD-  
QUARTERS OF  
GENOSHAN STATE  
SECURITY, THAT  
THE MUTATES WHO  
DRIVE GENOSHA'S  
ECONOMY SPRING...



...AND THE ONLY  
THING A NATIVE  
GENOSHAN FEARS  
IS THAT HE MIGHT  
BECOME ONE OF  
THE CHOSEN TO  
SERVE...

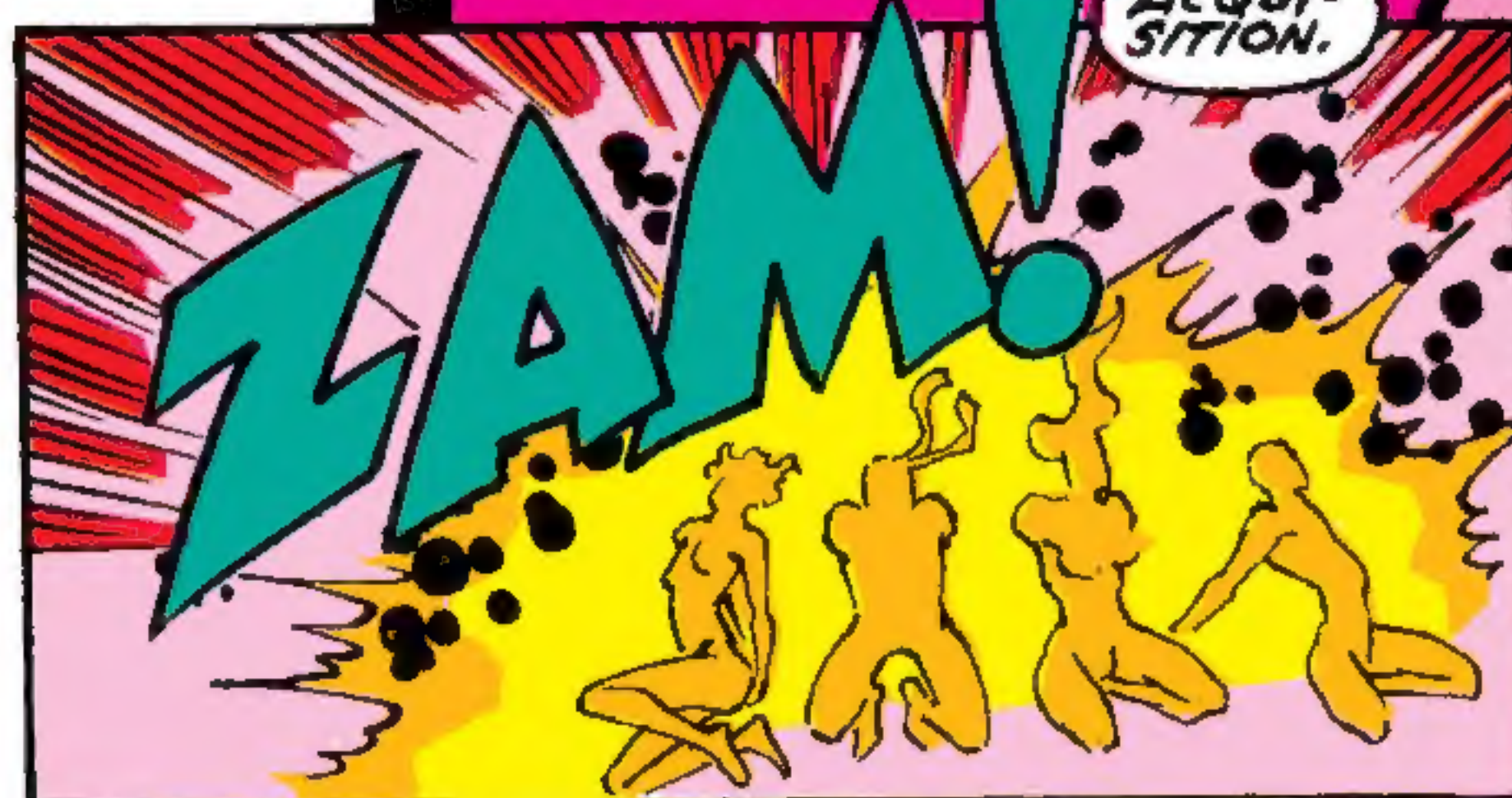




THE EYES OF THE MUTANT PIPELINE REFLECT HIS COMPUTER SCREEN, THE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH HE TRANSFORMS HIS VICTIMS TO ELECTRONIC IMPULSES AND REASSEMBLES THEM WHERE THEY ARE REQUIRED...



ACQUISITION.



BOOM-BOOM, RICTOR AND RANNE OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND STORM OF THE X-MEN ARE NOT GENOSHANS. THEY WERE ATTACKED AND KIDNAPED FROM THEIR SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA...

WHERE... WHERE ARE WE..?

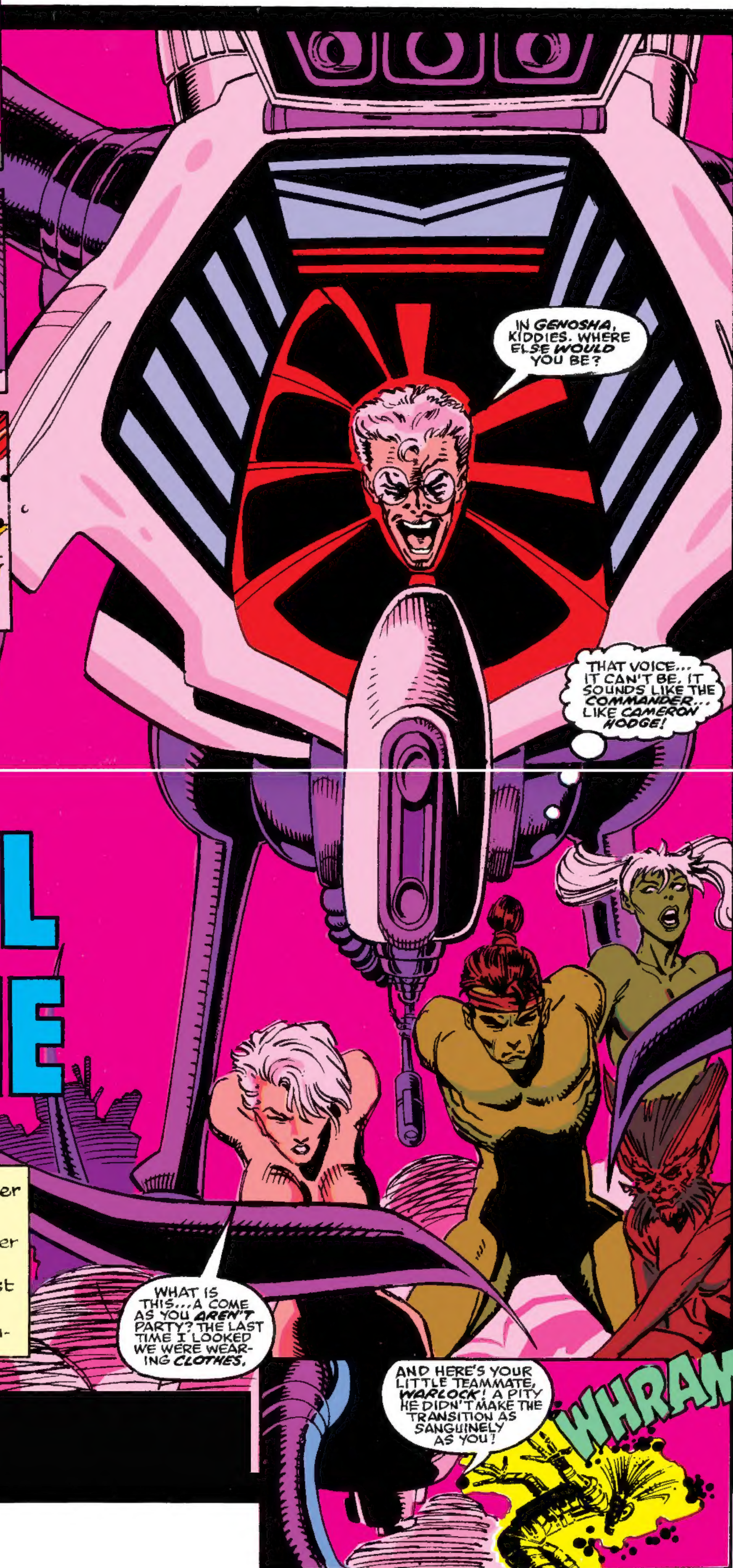
# SHELL GAME

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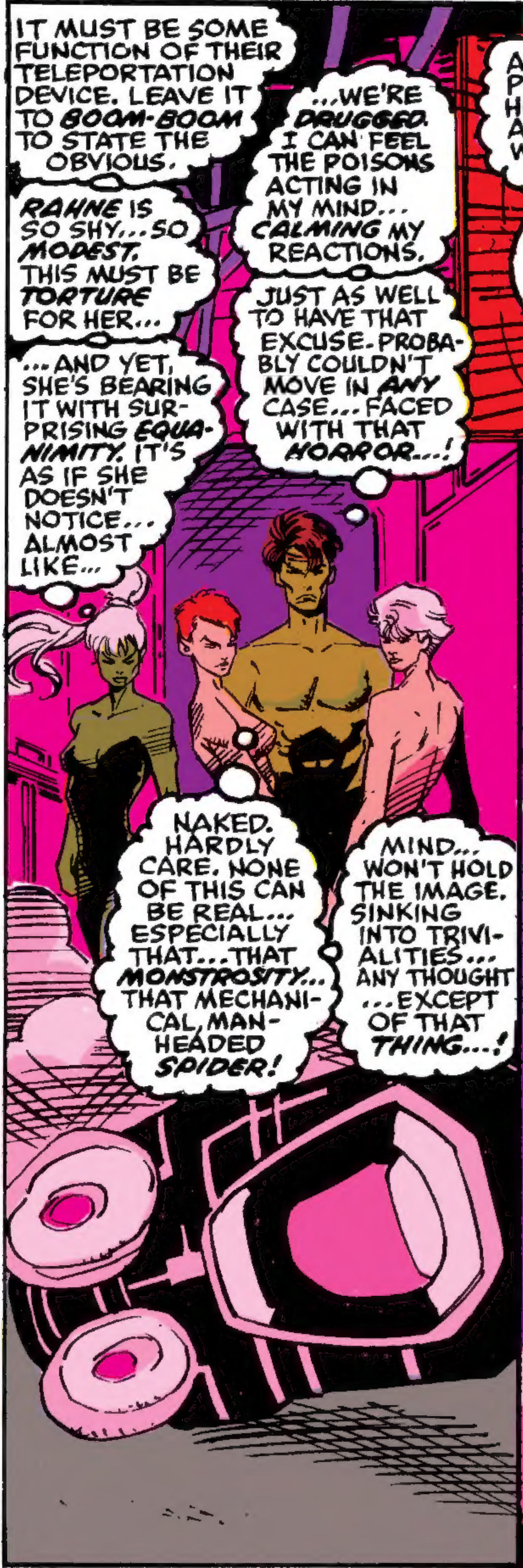
WHAT IS THIS... A COME AS YOU AREN'T PARTY? THE LAST TIME I LOOKED WE WERE WEARING CLOTHES.

AND HERE'S YOUR LITTLE TEAMMATE, WARLOCK! A PITY HE DIDN'T MAKE THE TRANSITION AS SANGUINELY AS YOU!

WHHRAM!







IT MUST BE SOME FUNCTION OF THEIR TELEPORTATION DEVICE. LEAVE IT TO BOOM-BOOM TO STATE THE OBVIOUS.

RAHNE IS SO SHY... SO MODEST. THIS MUST BE TORTURE FOR HER...

...AND YET, SHE'S BEARING IT WITH SURPRISING EQUANIMITY. IT'S AS IF SHE DOESN'T NOTICE... ALMOST LIKE...

...WE'RE DRUGGED. I CAN FEEL THE POISONS ACTING IN MY MIND... CALMING MY REACTIONS.

JUST AS WELL TO HAVE THAT EXCUSE. PROBABLY COULDN'T MOVE IN ANY CASE... FACED WITH THAT HORROR...

NAKED. HARDLY CARE. NONE OF THIS CAN BE REAL... ESPECIALLY THAT... THAT MONSTROSITY... THAT MECHANICAL, MAN-HEADED SPIDER!

MIND... WON'T HOLD THE IMAGE. SINKING INTO TRIVIALITIES... ANY THOUGHT... EXCEPT OF THAT THING...!



AND WARLOCK... POOR WARLOCK... HURLED THERE AT ITS FEET! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...?

NAKED AND HELPLESS, THEY MAY HAVE BROUGHT US HERE, BOOM-BOOM...

...BUT WE WILL NA' REMAIN SO!



WELL GREAT, WOLFSBANE. YOU CAN SHAPE-SHIFT, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?

AND AT LEAST, SELFRIEND BOOM-BOOM, YOU ARE ALIVE.

OH, WARLOCK. YOU CAN SPEAK. THANK HEAVEN. WE WERE WORRIED... WE THOUGHT... YOU MIGHT BE...

WHO ARE YOU, Y'SPALEEN? WHAT HAVE Y' DONE TO HIM? WHAT DO YOU WANT WI' US?



THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW, LITTLE WOLF, AND YOU TO FIND OUT. BUT BY THE TIME YOU DO, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

WHAT IS IT, RICTOR? WHY DO YOU SAY NOTHING? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? HMMMM?

WORSE WILL HAVE IT BEFORE WE'RE FINISHED, LET ME ASSURE YOU!

GUARDS, SIGNAL WIPEOUT THAT IT'S SAFE TO COME IN. I WANT HIM TO REMOVE THEIR POWERS--NOW!







THAT WE  
CANNOT  
ALLOW!

I FEAR THAT BOOM-BOOM,  
FOR ONCE, IS RIGHT! IN THIS  
CHILD'S BODY  
MY POWERS ARE  
UNCERTAIN...

...AND MY MIND  
IS SLUGGISH  
FROM THEIR  
DRUGS.

SHEER WILL HAS  
ENABLED ME TO CONJURE THIS WIND  
BUT I FEAR LIGHTNING IS BEYOND MY ABILITIES...

TZOW!

BLOW!

THE  
WEATHER  
WITCH, FULLY  
ADULT AND  
FUNCTIONAL,  
WOULD BE  
MORE THAN  
A MATCH  
FOR YOU,  
BUT NOW!

FIRE, YOU  
FOOLS... FIRE!



SHE'S SINKING!  
GRAB HER!



THIS IS ALL YOUR  
FAULT, STORM...

3...

IF IT HADN'T  
BEEN FOR YOU,  
WE WOULDN'T  
BE HERE...

2...

GIMME  
A BREAK,  
STORM, THAT  
LITTLE GUST  
OF WIND WON'T  
WORK.



SKR-A-BOOM!

LOOK, RIC,  
SHE MANAGED  
LIGHTNING... BUT  
NOT NEAR ENOUGH  
TO HOLD 'EM OFF...

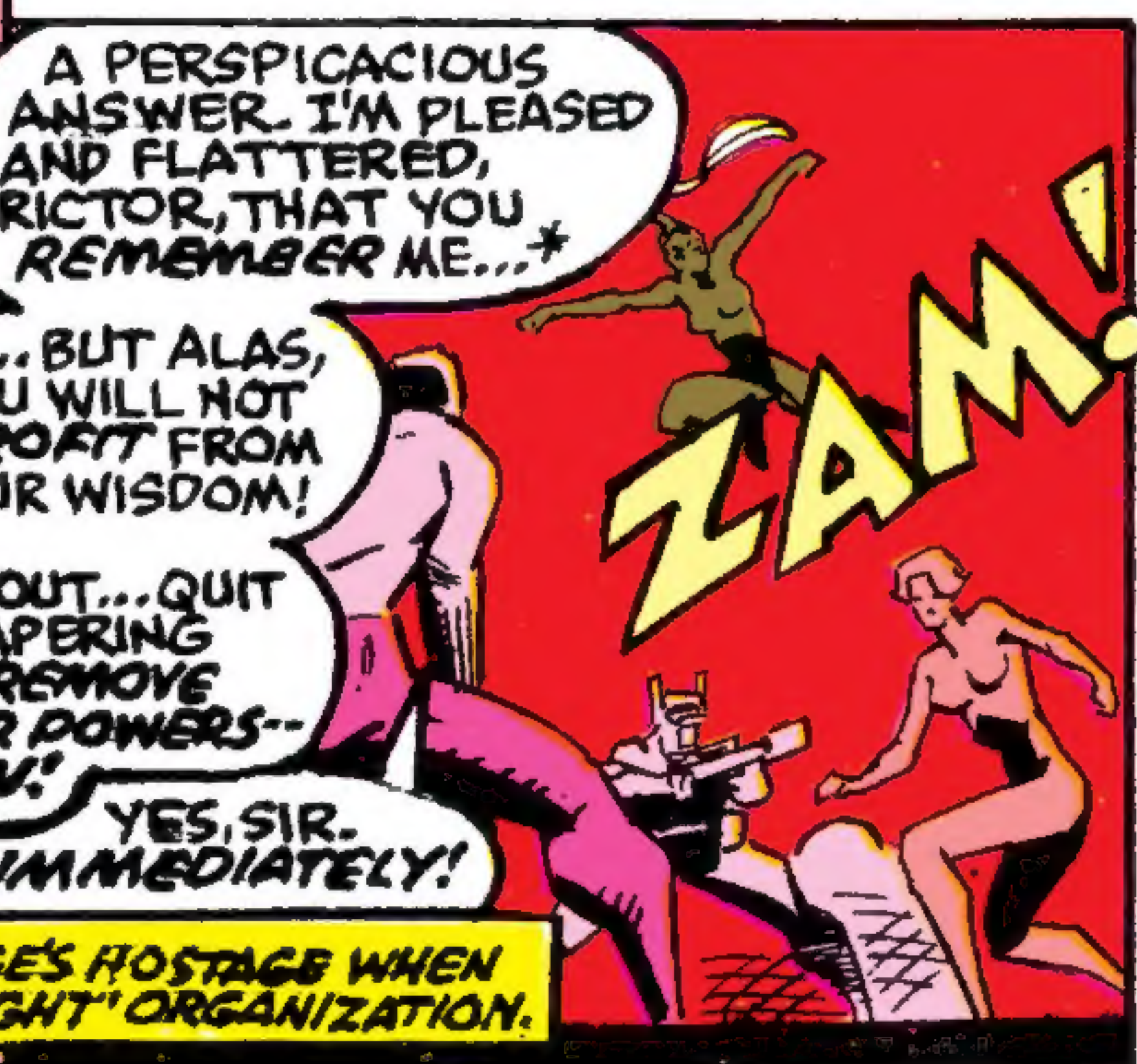
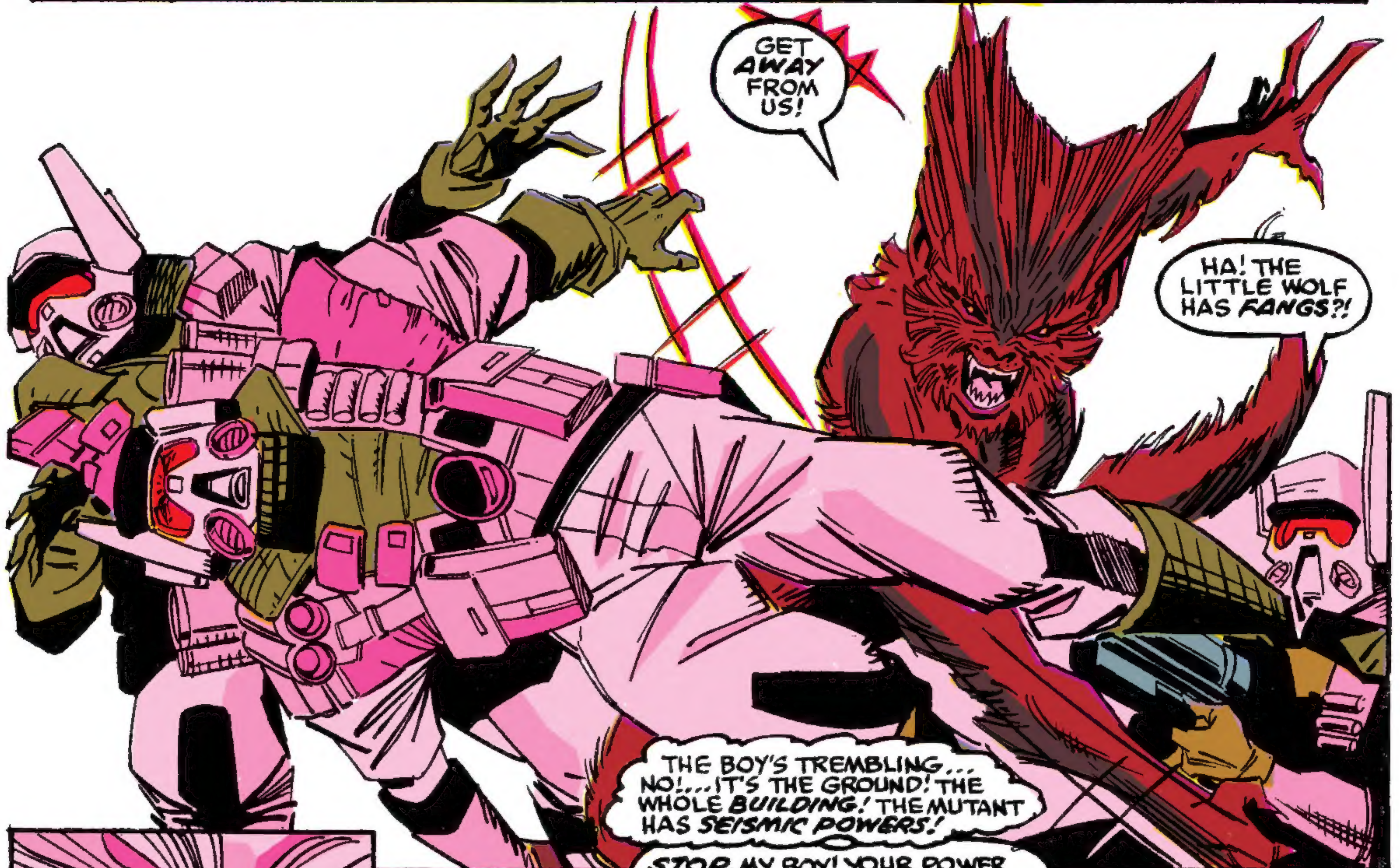


AND SO  
IT'S UP TO  
ME AND MY  
TIME BOMBS...  
AS USUAL... TO  
GET US OUT  
OF THIS... 1...



BOOM!





\*RICTOR WAS HODGE'S HOSTAGE WHEN HODGE RAN THE 'RIGHT' ORGANIZATION.



WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, THE MUTANTS WHO STILL OCCUPY THE RUINED PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SURVEY THEIR DAMAGE...

GAMBIT AND I HEARD THE ALARM. STRONG AS I AM IN MY **SUNSPOT** FORM...

...IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO SHOVE THE GROUND-HATCH OPEN. IT SEEMED TO BE **FUSED SHUT!**

MADONNA! THE GROUND IS LITTERED WITH WEAPONS, RUINED CYCLES, AND CLOTHING...

...AND YOU AND FORGE ARE DRIPPING WET.

WHAT IS IT, CABLE? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

THERE WAS AN ALARM... I KNEW THAT **BOOM-BOOM**, **RAHNE** AND **RICTOR** WERE ON THE SURFACE...

...RE-NEWING THEIR AC-QUAINTANCE WITH THE PHYSIO-THERAPIST **STEVIE HUNTER**.

**CABLE**, **CANNONBALL**, **BANSHEE** AND I RESPONDED.

AS YOU SEE, **RICTOR**, YOUR EARTH-QUAKE HAS **STOPPED!** YOU HAVE NOT THE ABILITY TO PREVAIL AGAINST ME.

YOU MUTANTS ARE PRISONERS OF **GENOSHA**, SLATED TO FACE TRIAL AND EXECUTION FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.

CRIMES-?!? BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN **GENOSHA**.

NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. **STORM** WAS HERE IN HER ADULT INCARNATION, WERE YOU NOT, MUTANT?

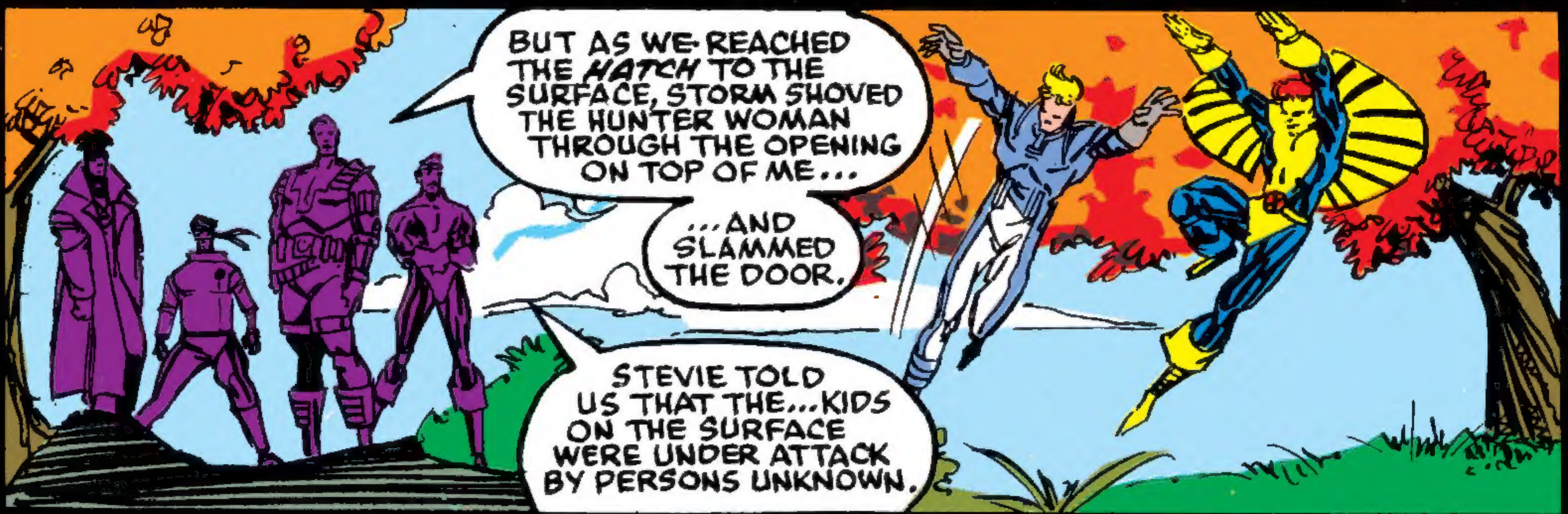
YOU SEE, **STORM**, YOUR PATHETIC EFFORT TO DELUDE MY MAGISTRATES AND PLAY THE HELPLESS CHILD HAS FAILED.

YOUR GENE-PRINT CONFIRMS YOUR TRUE IDENTITY BEYOND QUESTION. OFFICIALLY, YOU WILL STAND TRIAL AS **X-MEN!**

UNOFFICIALLY, OF COURSE, YOU ARE IN MY POWER. YOU OWE ME YOUR LIVES.

AND I WILL SEE THAT YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE TO WREAK YOUR MUTANT HAVOC AGAIN UPON AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD.





BUT AS WE REACHED THE **HATCH** TO THE SURFACE, STORM SHOVED THE HUNTER WOMAN THROUGH THE OPENING ON TOP OF ME...

...AND SLAMMED THE DOOR.

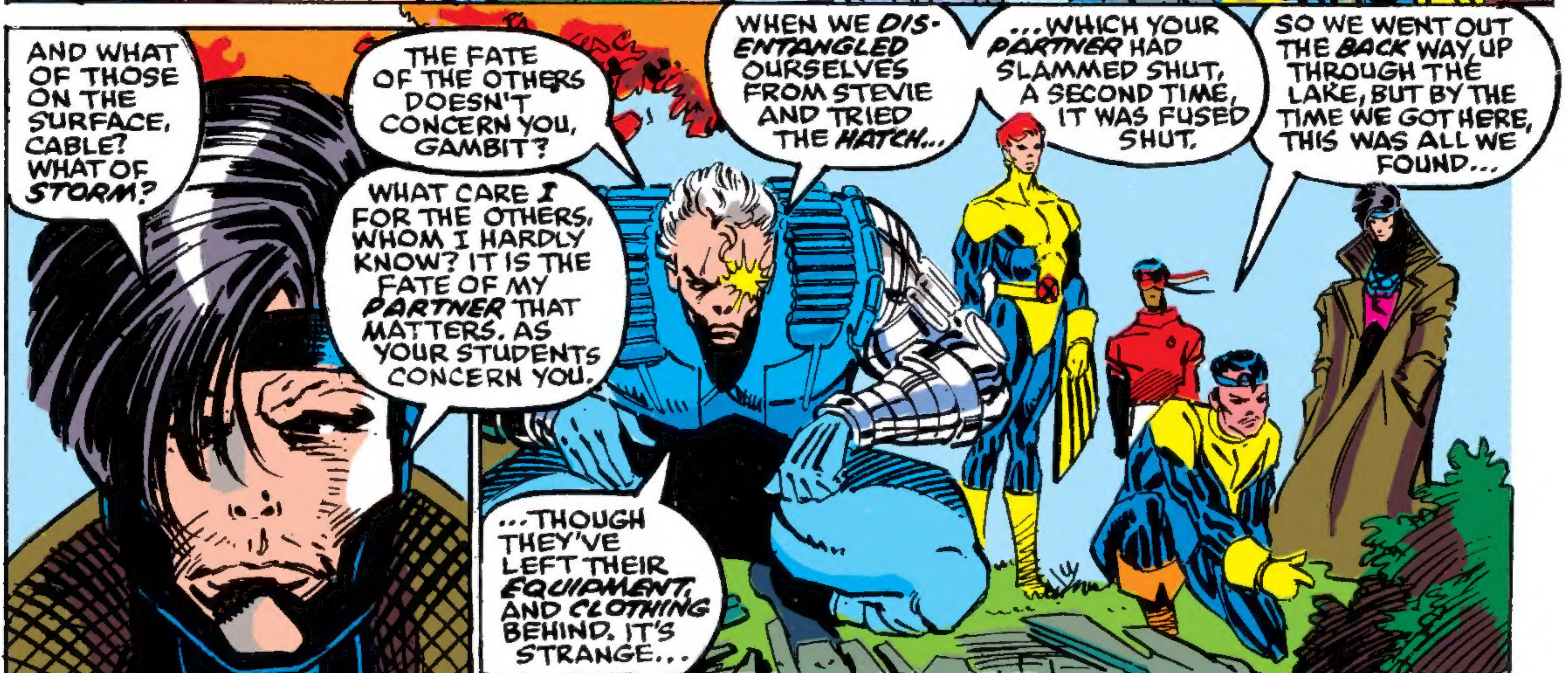
STEVIE TOLD US THAT THE...KIDS ON THE SURFACE WERE UNDER ATTACK BY PERSONS UNKNOWN.



NO KIDDIN', SIR. WE'VE RECONNOITERED THE AREA, LIKE YOU SAID AN' THERE MUST'VE BEEN LOTS OF 'EM...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MUSTA GONE UP IN A PUFF O' SMOKE.

CANNONBALL'S RIGHT, CABLE. IT SEEMS OUR ATTACKERS ARE WELL AN' TRULY GONE...



AND WHAT OF THOSE ON THE SURFACE, CABLE? WHAT OF STORM?

THE FATE OF THE OTHERS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, GAMBIT?

WHAT CARE I FOR THE OTHERS, WHOM I HARDLY KNOW? IT IS THE FATE OF MY PARTNER THAT MATTERS. AS YOUR STUDENTS CONCERN YOU.

WHEN WE **DIS-ENTANGLED** OURSELVES FROM STEVIE AND TRIED THE **HATCH**...

...WHICH YOUR PARTNER HAD SLAMMED SHUT, A SECOND TIME, IT WAS FUSED SHUT.

SO WE WENT OUT THE **BACK** WAY, UP THROUGH THE LAKE, BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE, THIS WAS ALL WE FOUND...

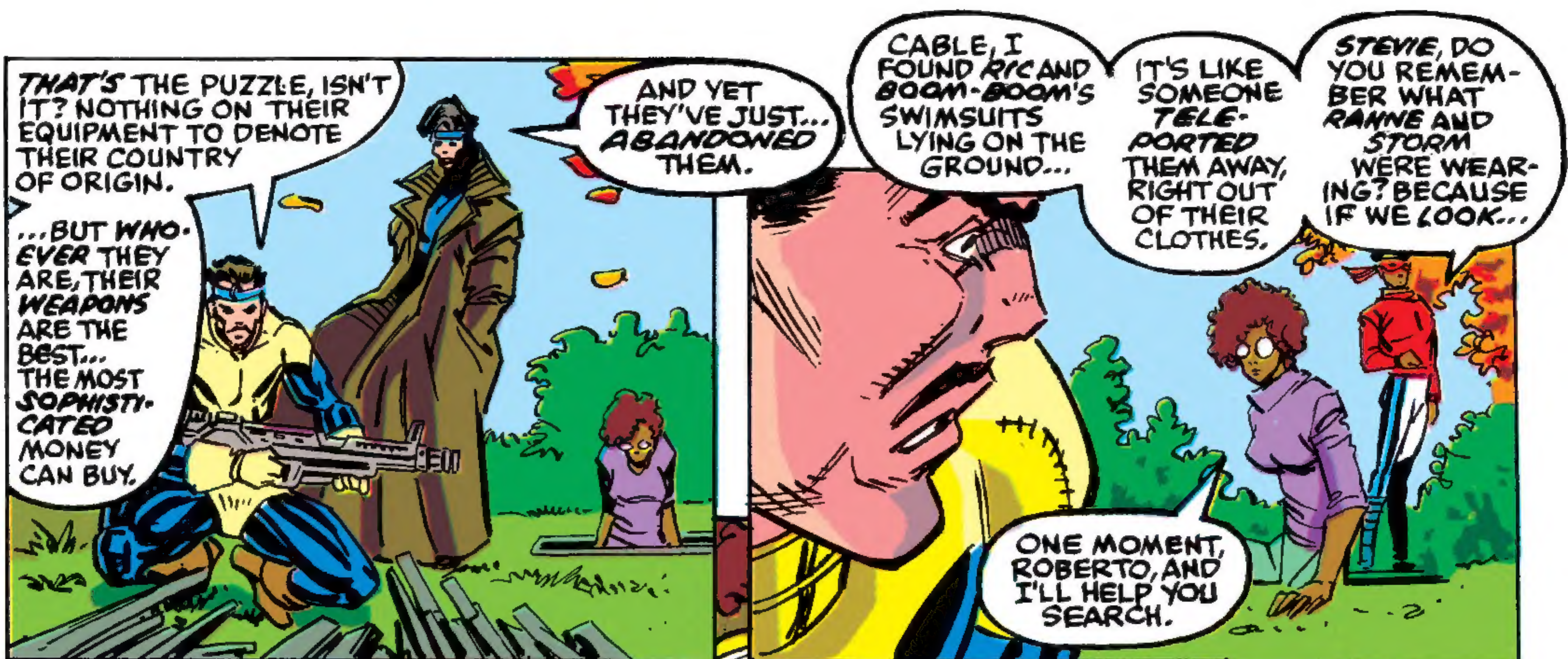
...THOUGH THEY'VE LEFT THEIR **EQUIPMENT**, AND **CLOTHING** BEHIND, IT'S STRANGE...



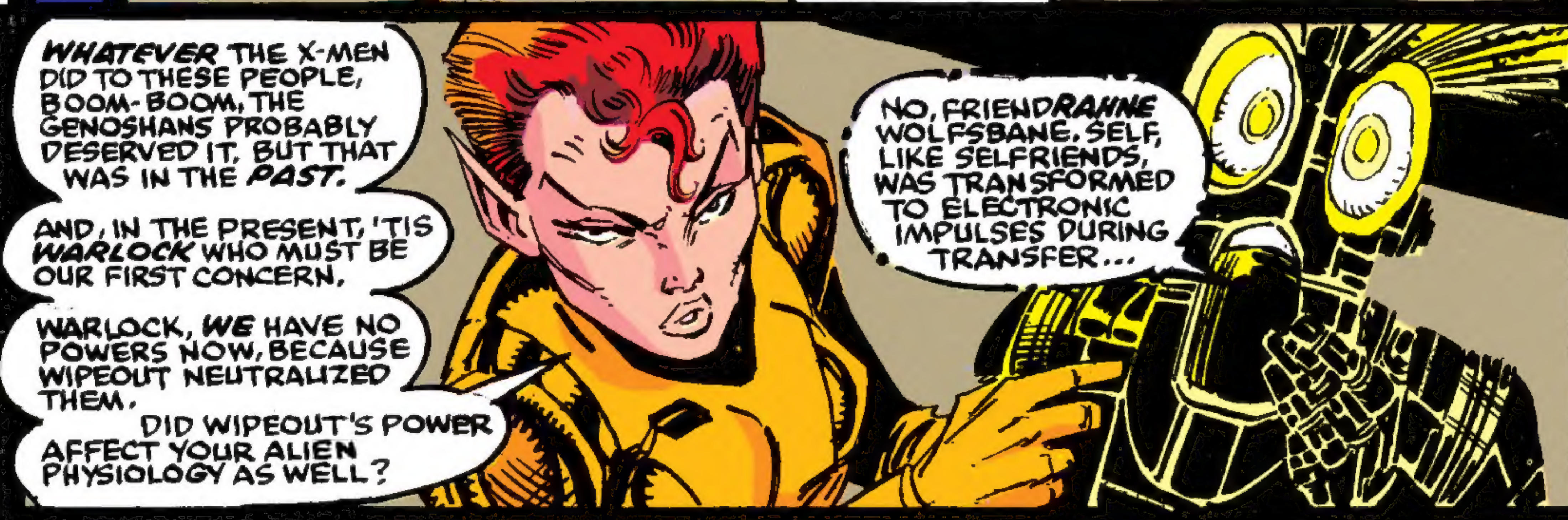
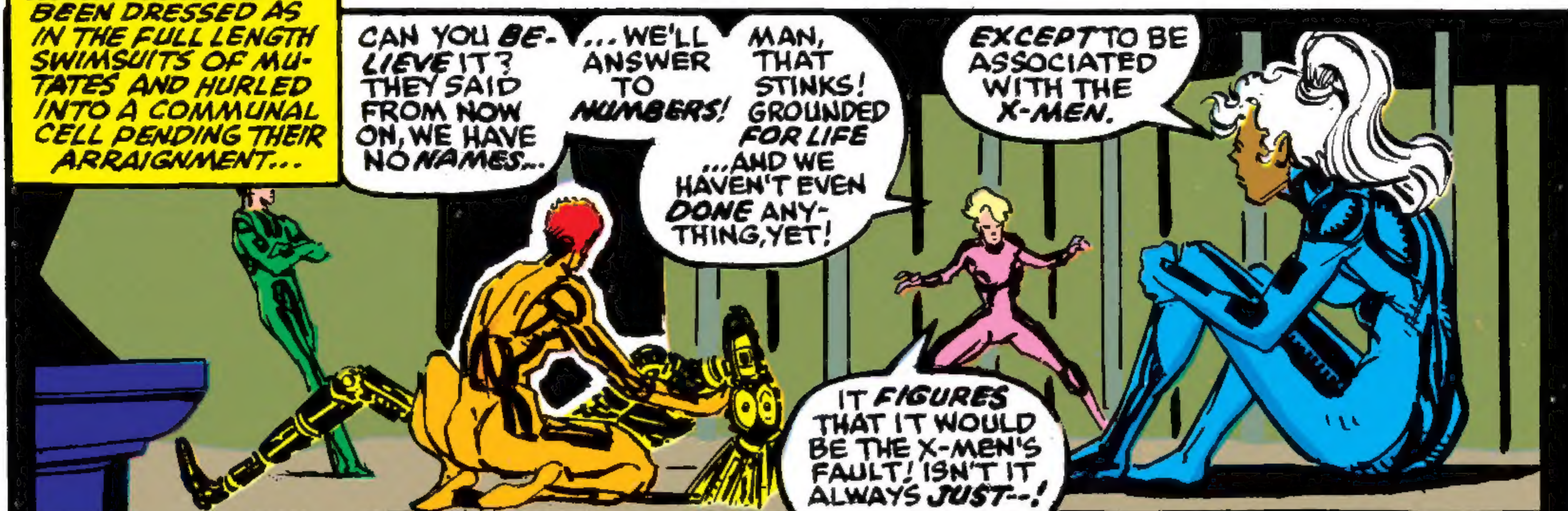
STORM SEEMS TO BE **MISSING**, GAMBIT...

MISSING? BUT WHERE CAN SHE HAVE GONE? WHO HAS **TAKEN** HER?





MEANWHILE IN GENOSHA, THE POWERLESS NEW MUTANTS HAVE BEEN DRESSED AS IN THE FULL LENGTH SWIMSUITS OF MUTATES AND HURLED INTO A COMMUNAL CELL PENDING THEIR ARRAIGNMENT...





YOU MEAN YOU'RE PLANNING TO JUST *LIE* THERE... GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER, TILL YOU *DIE*? WARLOCK, THAT'S *NUTS*.

LOOK, IF YOU NEED *LIFENERGY*, TAKE SOME OF *OURS*. WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH!

YOU WOULD *DO* THAT? SHARE *ENERGY* WITH *SELF*? YOU ARE TRULY DEAREST FRIENDS IN WORLD...

...BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU OFFER.

SHARING ENERGY MIGHT INFECT YOU WITH *TRANSMODE VIRUS* THAT MAKES *SELF* WHAT *SELF* IS...

...AS *SELF* FEARS THAT, MONTHS AGO, *DOUG* WAS INFECTED.

DOUG IS DEAD, SO WE'LL NEVER KNOW. BUT WITHOUT OUR ENERGY, YOU ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE DEAD, TOO.

TAKE IT, 'LOCK! WE'RE ALL IN THIS FIX TOGETHER...

YOU NEED NOT TAKE MUCH FROM ANY OF US... THAT SHOULD LESSEN THE DANGER.

BESIDES, WE MAY NEED YOU SAFE AND SOUND TO... TO *RESCUE* US OR SOMETHING AND... AND YOU CAN'T IF YOU'RE, LIKE, DEAD!

DEARSELFRIEND-BOOM-BOOM, YOUR PRETEXT OF SELF-INTEREST FOOLS NO ONE.

NEVER IN THE ANNALS OF *SELF*'S RACE HAS ONE OF MY KIND HAD SUCH STALWART FRIENDS.

*SELF* WILL TAKE WHAT IS OFFERED... AND HOPE IT WILL BRING MORE GOOD THAN HARM TO *SELF*'S FRIENDS!

AWAY FROM HIM, LITTLE NAMELESS *NUMBERS*! LITTLE MUTANT *UNPERSONS*!

THAT IS *NOT* WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

IT IS NOT YOU, BUT *I* WHO WILL BE INFECTED BY WARLOCK'S *TRANSMODE VIRUS*...

...AND WILL DERIVE THE ABILITY TO SHIFT THE SHAPE OF MY BODY *AT WILL*!

FOR ALL ITS UNCONVENTIONALITY, THIS BODY HAS MANY *ADVANTAGES*. SHALL I SHOW YOU SOME OF THEM?

HOW EASILY *ORDERS* LEAP TO YOUR LIPS! AND YOU NO LONGER LEAD THE *X-MEN*, ARROGANTLY SECURE IN YOUR ADULT POWER.

YOU'RE JUST A *CHILD*... AND POWERLESS... JUST LIKE ANY *OTHER* KID!

CAMERON HODGE!

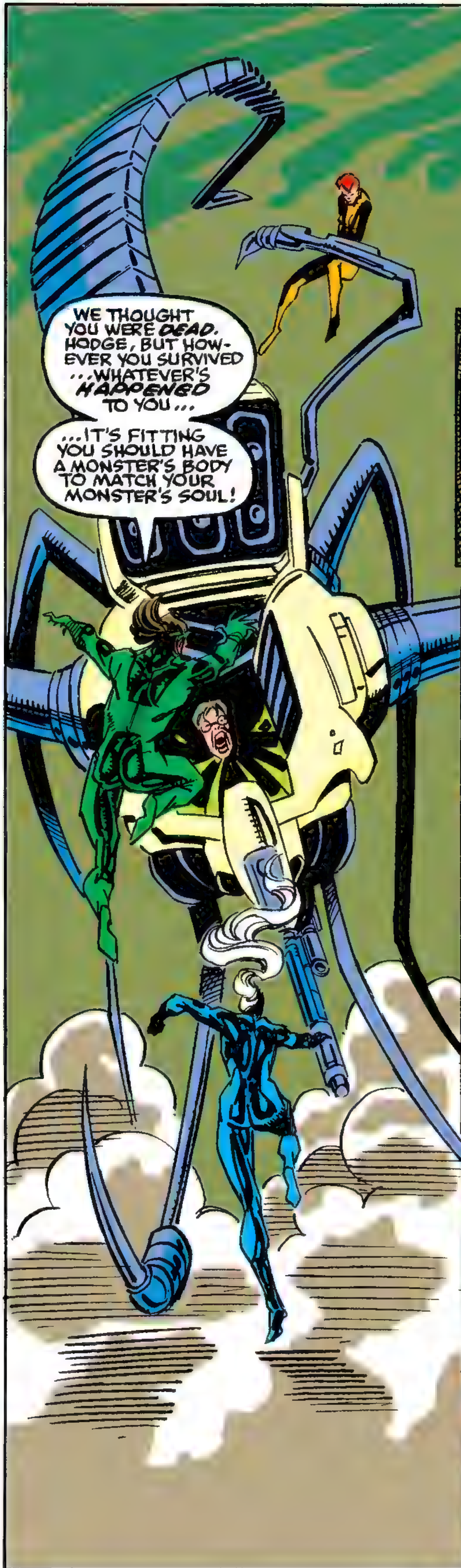
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO SNEAK UP ON US SO QUIETLY?

DROP HER, MONSTER!

LET GO OF ME, HODGE, YOU'RE HURTING ME!

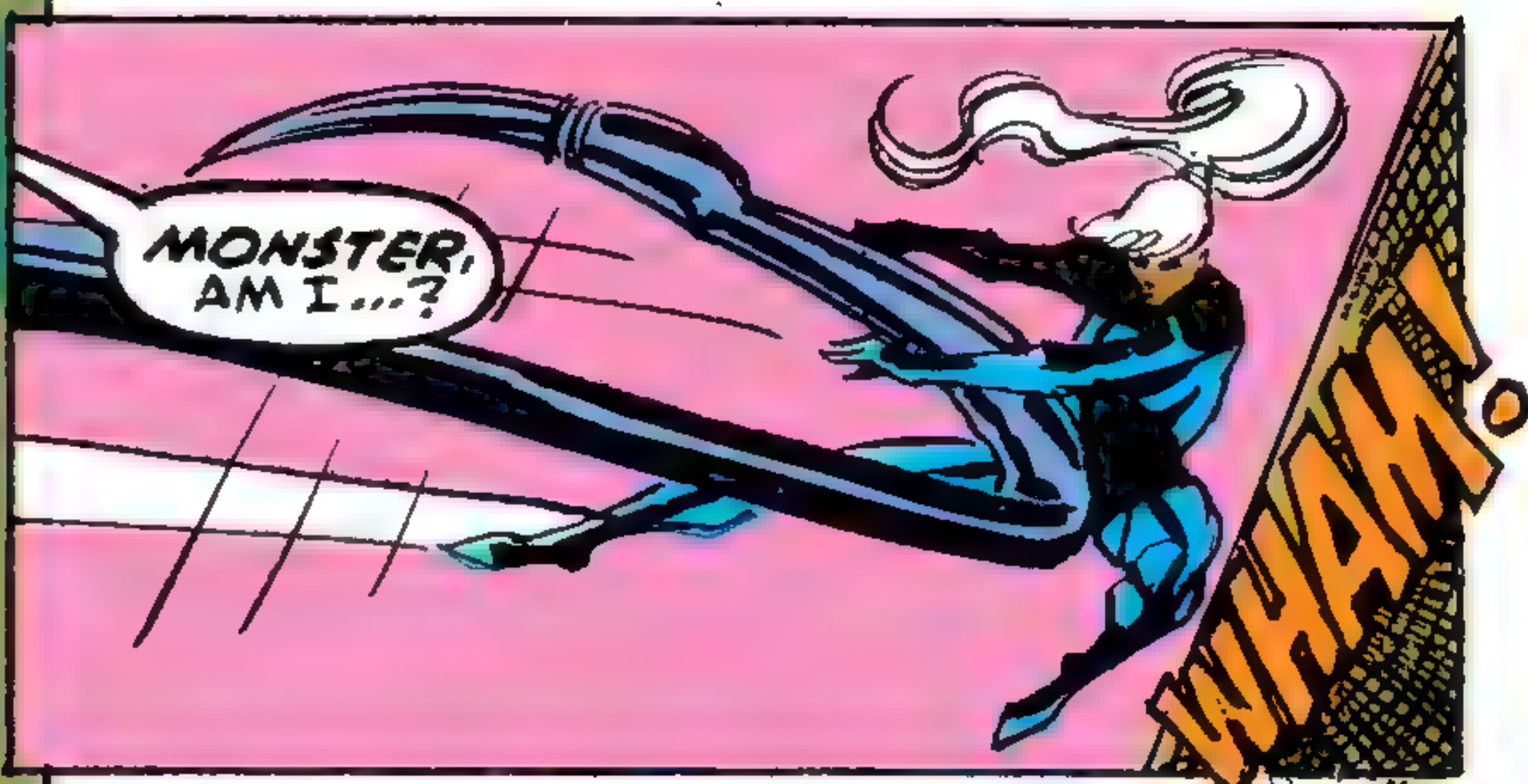
RAHNE!





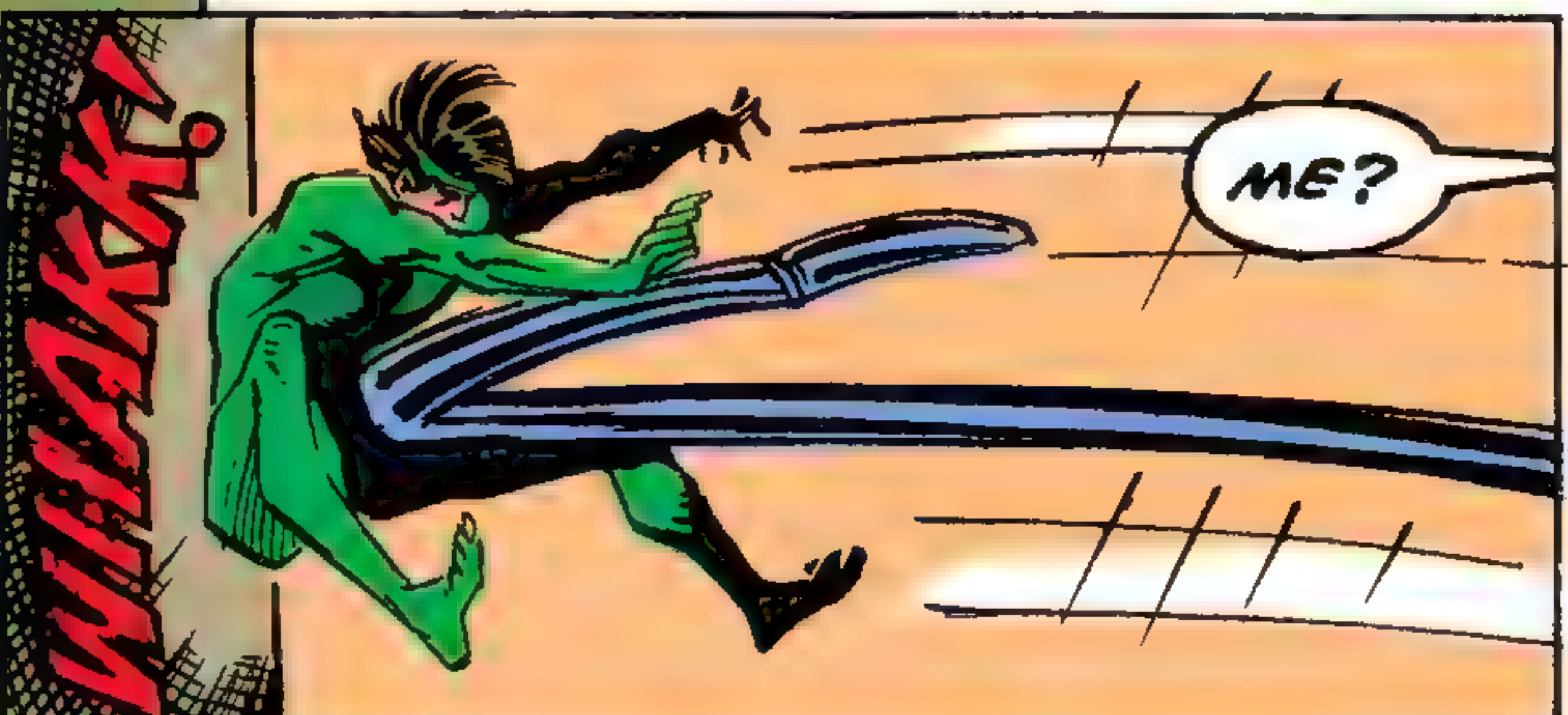
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD. HODGE, BUT HOWEVER YOU SURVIVED...WHATEVER'S HAPPENED TO YOU...

...IT'S FITTING YOU SHOULD HAVE A MONSTER'S BODY TO MATCH YOUR MONSTER'S SOUL!

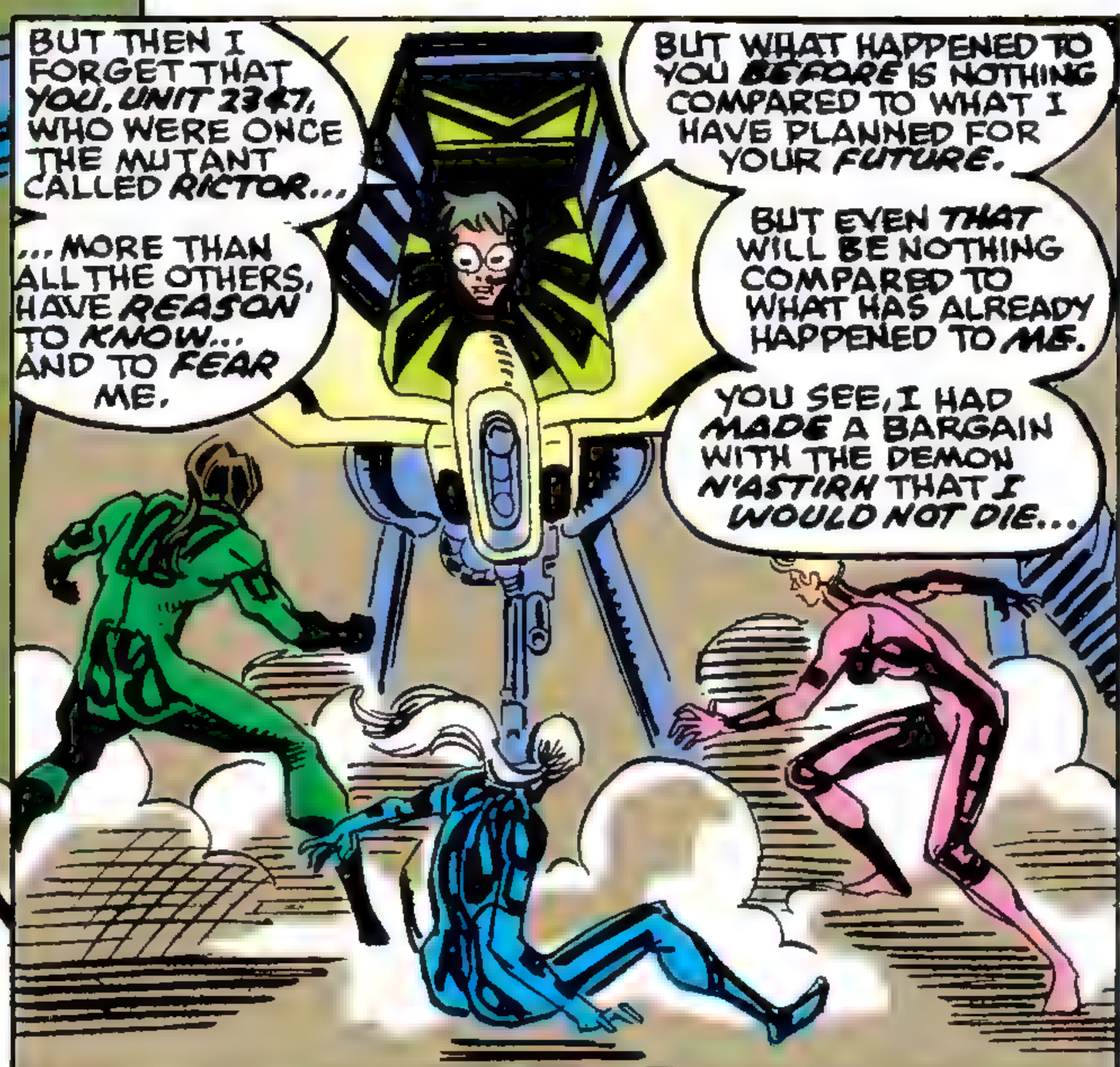


MONSTER, AM I...?

WHAM!



ME?



BUT THEN I FORGET THAT YOU, UNIT 2347, WHO WERE ONCE THE MUTANT CALLED RIKTOR...

...MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS, HAVE REASON TO KNOW... AND TO FEAR ME.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BEFORE IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR YOUR FUTURE.

BUT EVEN THAT WILL BE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED TO ME.

YOU SEE, I HAD MADE A BARGAIN WITH THE DEMON N'ASTIRN THAT I WOULD NOT DIE...

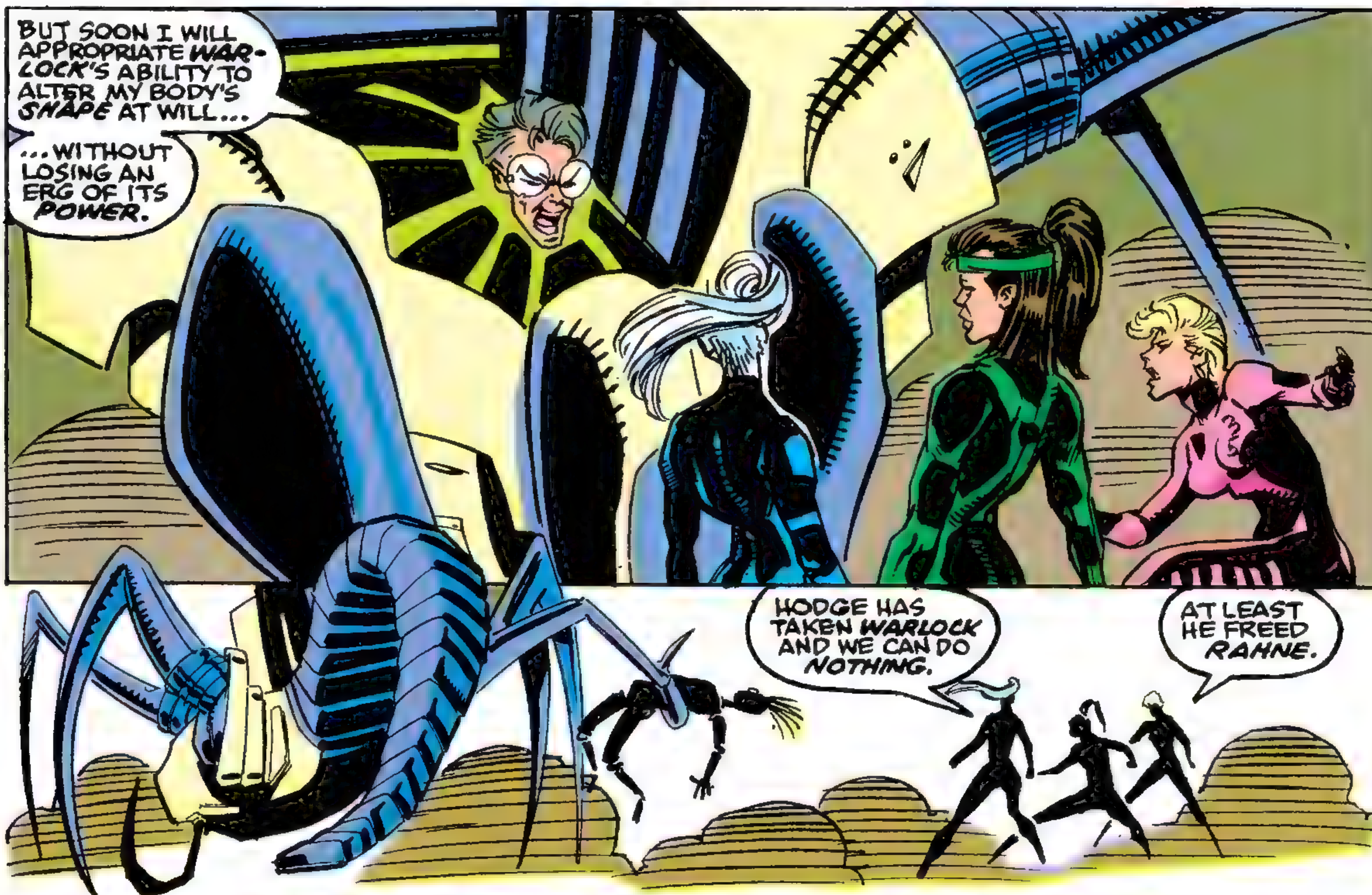


...AND, WHEN YOUR TEAMMATE ARCHANGEL CUT OFF MY HEAD WITH HIS RAZOR SHARP WINGS, MY HEAD STILL LIVED!

MY CYBERNETICS EXPERTS CONSTRUCTED THIS POWERFUL MECHANICAL BODY FOR ME...VERY STRONG, VERY DEADLY...

...BUT, ALAS, NOT VERY BEAUTIFUL.





BUT SOON I WILL APPROPRIATE WARLOCK'S ABILITY TO ALTER MY BODY'S SHAPE AT WILL...

...WITHOUT LOSING AN ERG OF ITS POWER.

HODGE HAS TAKEN WARLOCK AND WE CAN DO NOTHING.

AT LEAST HE FREED RAHNE.

AND PHASED OUT THROUGH OUR CELL WALLS, JUST LIKE HE PHASED IN! I SURE WISH WE COULD DO THAT!

AND I, ALSO.

THAT CREATURE IS MAD, AND, HERE, WE ARE IN HIS POWER. SOMEHOW WE MUST ESCAPE.



WITHIN THE CITADEL IS A LABORATORY COMPLEX, RUN BY THE UNASSUMING DR. MOREAU, WHOSE INNOCUOUS, BUREAUCRATIC TITLE BARELY HINTS AT HIS POWER. BUT THOSE WHO KNOW HIM FOR WHAT HE IS, CALL HIM THE **GENEENGINEER**.

HIS PRESENT SUBJECT'S GENETEST, REQUIRED ON HIS THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY, SHOWS USEFUL MUTAGENIC PROPERTIES, AND SO...

MICHAEL, LAD, CALM DOWN. ACCEPT WHAT'S HAPPENING AND, SOON, MY TELEPATH WILL ERASE YOUR MEMORIES.

BUT I WANT TO REMEMBER... MY... MOTHER... MY DAD... THEY LOVE ME! I DON'T WANT TO FORGET.

BUT YOU'LL SHAVE MY HEAD, I'LL HAVE A NUMBER ON MY FOREHEAD. I'LL BE BONDED FOREVER TO A MUTATE SUIT! MY... MY FRIENDS... MY FAMILY... WILL SEE...

WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO ASSIGN YOU FAR FROM THEM, IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO CAUSE THEM PAIN...

...THOUGH IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THEY'LL KNOW YOU. MOST PEOPLE NEVER LOOK BEYOND THE SUIT AND NUMBER TO SEE A MUTATE'S FACE.



THEY SAY YOU DO  
THIS TO PUNISH  
YOUR PEOPLE!  
BUT I'VE DONE  
NOTHING!

YOUR DUTY IS  
TO THE STATE  
WHICH SUCCORED  
YOU.

SELF DOES NOT  
UNDERSTAND. DOES  
DUTY MEAN SACRIFICE  
OF SELF? TO WIPE OUT  
MEMORY IS A CRIME!  
WHY PUNISH BOY?

WHY  
PUNISH  
SELFRIENDS  
NEW  
MUTANTS?

YOUNG OR OLD,  
YOU'RE PART OF  
THE SAME TEAM.  
ALL ENEMIES OF  
THE GENOSHAN  
STATE. YOUR EX-  
ISTENCE THREATENS  
THE STATUS QUO  
OF THIS SOCIETY!

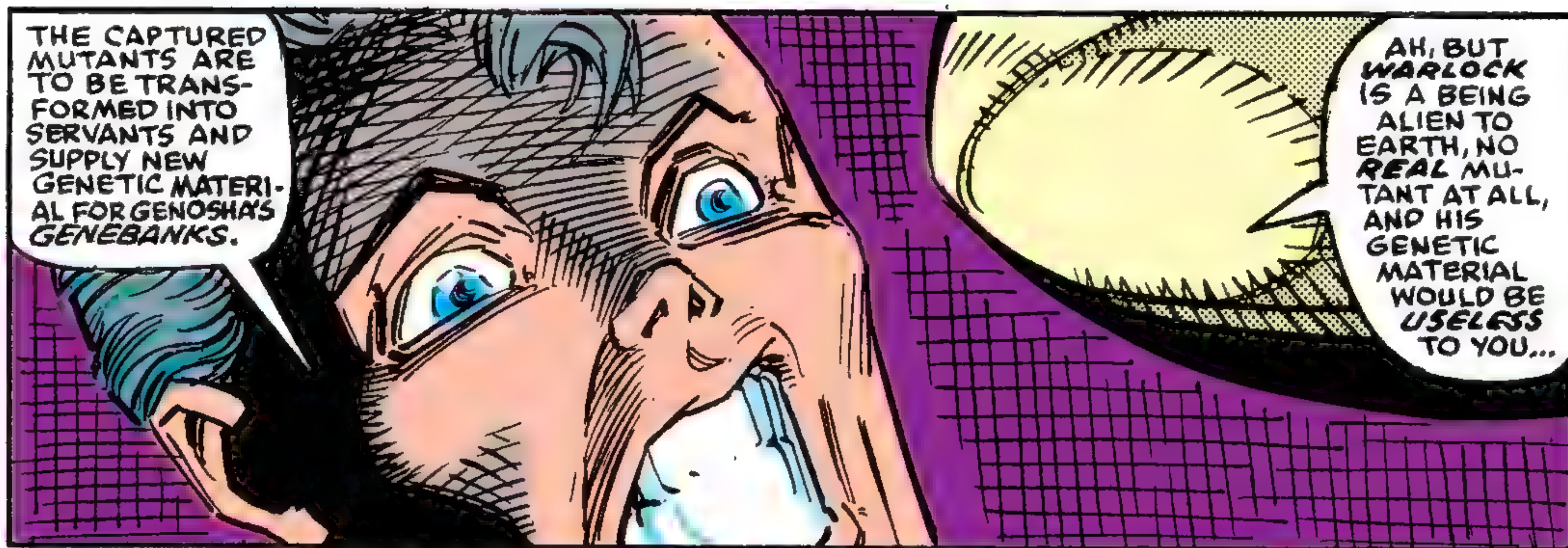
AND FOR EACH OF  
OUR MUTATES YOU  
FREE, YOU WILL PAY  
FIVEFOLD... IS THAT  
NOT SO, GENENGINEER?

HODGE, WHY  
HAVE YOU BROUGHT  
THAT ALIEN CREATURE  
HERE, WHERE I  
CREATE THE MUTATES  
WHO PROVIDE FOR  
GENOSHA'S WELL  
BEING?

BECAUSE I  
HAVE A PLAN,  
YOU HYPOCRITE,  
OF BENEFIT TO  
NO ONE BUT  
MYSELF.

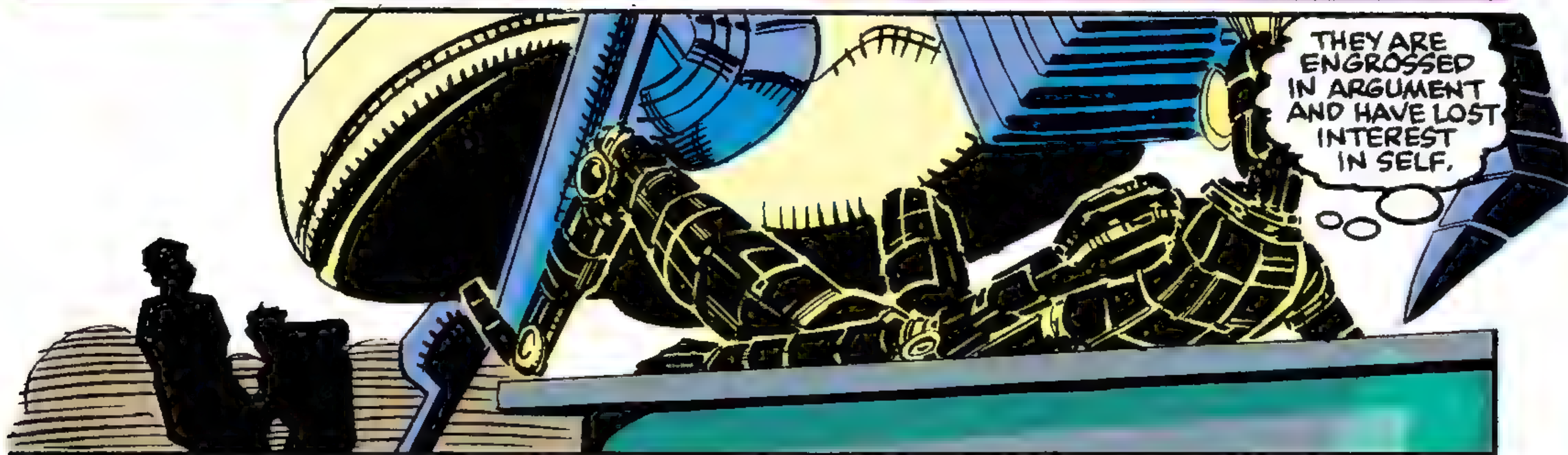
AND YOU, ALONE,  
HAVE THE EXPERTISE  
TO ASSIST ME.



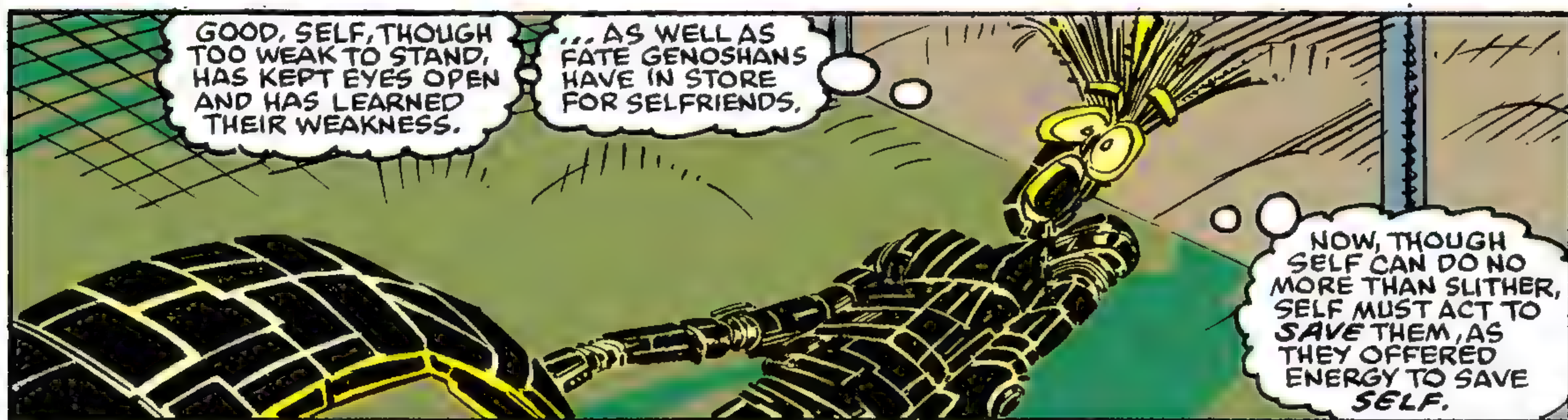


THE CAPTURED  
MUTANTS ARE  
TO BE TRANS-  
FORMED INTO  
SERVANTS AND  
SUPPLY NEW  
GENETIC MATERI-  
AL FOR GENOSHA'S  
GENEBANKS.

AH, BUT  
WARLOCK  
IS A BEING  
ALIEN TO  
EARTH, NO  
REAL MU-  
TANT AT ALL,  
AND HIS  
GENETIC  
MATERIAL  
WOULD BE  
USELESS  
TO YOU...



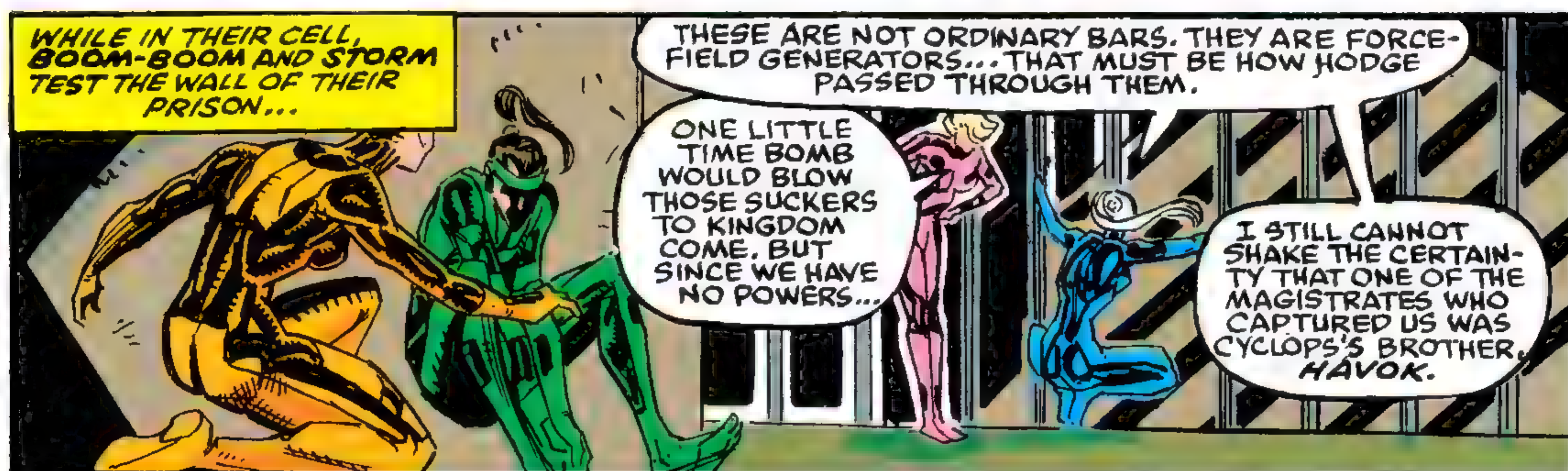
THEY ARE  
ENGROSSED  
IN ARGUMENT  
AND HAVE LOST  
INTEREST  
IN SELF.



GOOD, SELF, THOUGH  
TOO WEAK TO STAND,  
HAS KEPT EYES OPEN  
AND HAS LEARNED  
THEIR WEAKNESS.

... AS WELL AS  
FATE GENOSHANS  
HAVE IN STORE  
FOR SELFRIENDS.

NOW, THOUGH  
SELF CAN DO NO  
MORE THAN SLITHER,  
SELF MUST ACT TO  
SAVE THEM, AS  
THEY OFFERED  
ENERGY TO SAVE  
SELF.

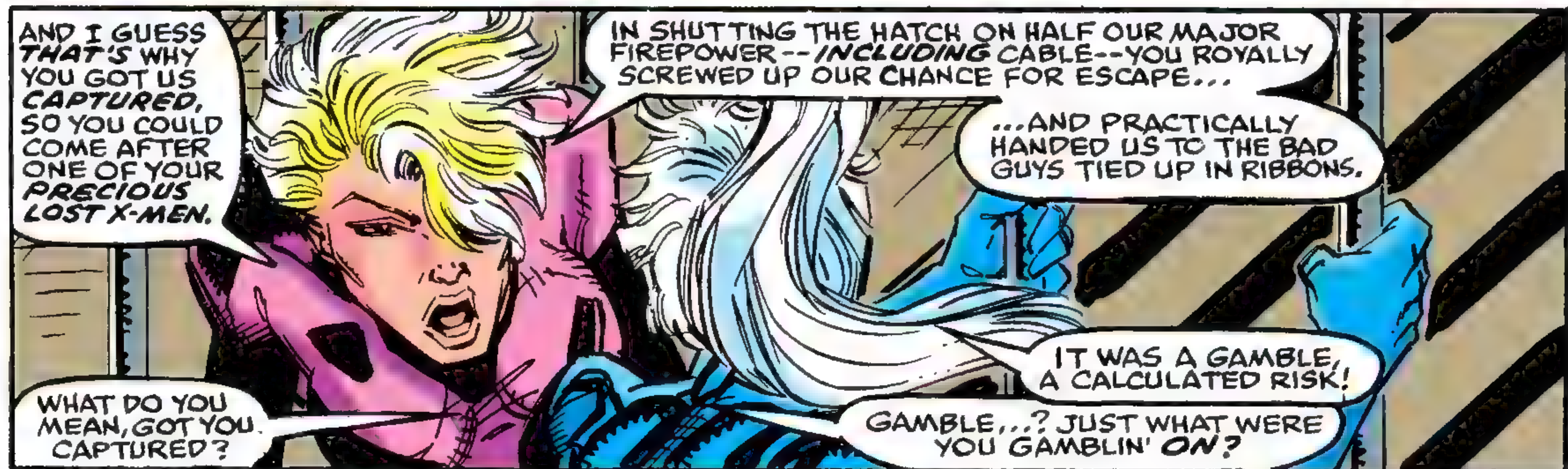


WHILE IN THEIR CELL,  
BOOM-BOOM AND STORM  
TEST THE WALL OF THEIR  
PRISON...

THESE ARE NOT ORDINARY BARS. THEY ARE FORCE-  
FIELD GENERATORS... THAT MUST BE HOW HODGE  
PASSED THROUGH THEM.

ONE LITTLE  
TIME BOMB  
WOULD BLOW  
THOSE SUCKERS  
TO KINGDOM  
COME. BUT  
SINCE WE HAVE  
NO POWERS...

I STILL CANNOT  
SHAKE THE CERTAIN-  
TY THAT ONE OF THE  
MAGISTRATES WHO  
CAPTURED US WAS  
CYCLOPS'S BROTHER,  
HAVOK.



AND I GUESS  
THAT'S WHY  
YOU GOT US  
CAPTURED,  
SO YOU COULD  
COME AFTER  
ONE OF YOUR  
PRECIOUS  
LOST X-MEN.

IN SHUTTING THE HATCH ON HALF OUR MAJOR  
FIREPOWER -- INCLUDING CABLE -- YOU ROYALLY  
SCREWED UP OUR CHANCE FOR ESCAPE...

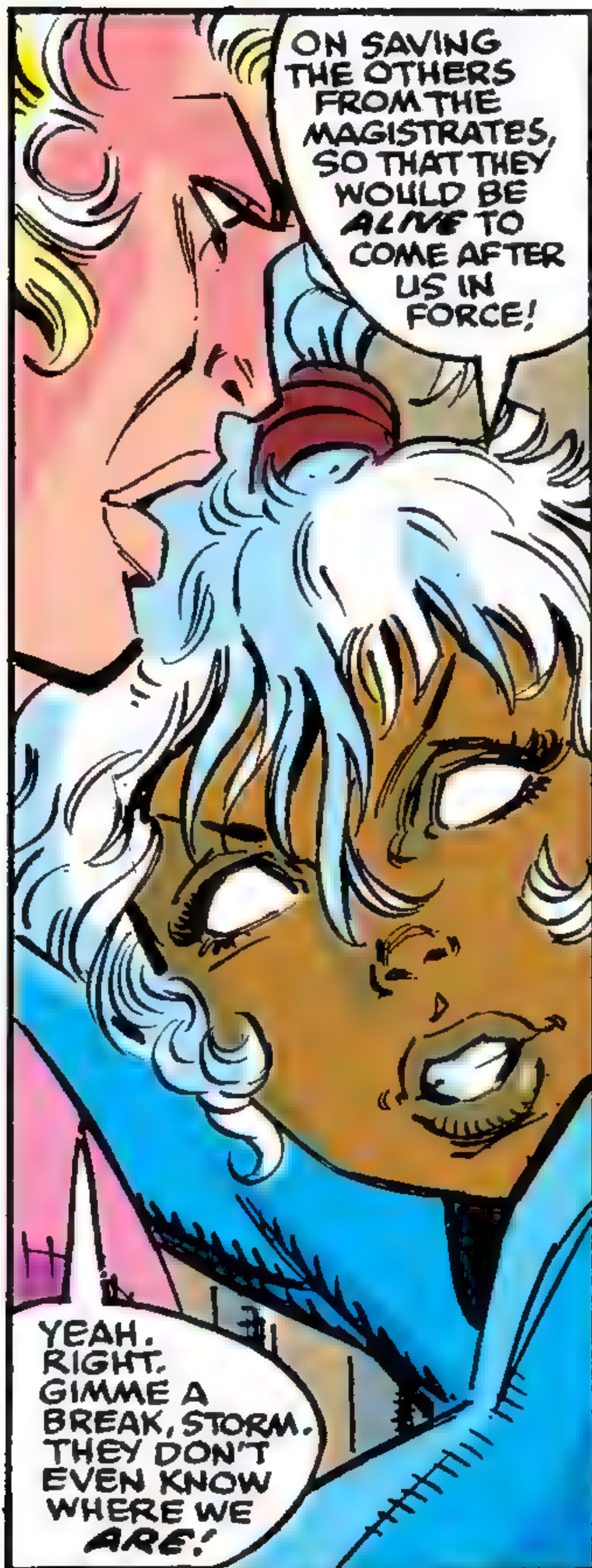
...AND PRACTICALLY  
HANDLED US TO THE BAD  
GUYS TIED UP IN RIBBONS.

IT WAS A GAMBLE,  
A CALCULATED RISK!

GAMBLE...? JUST WHAT WERE  
YOU GAMBLIN' ON?

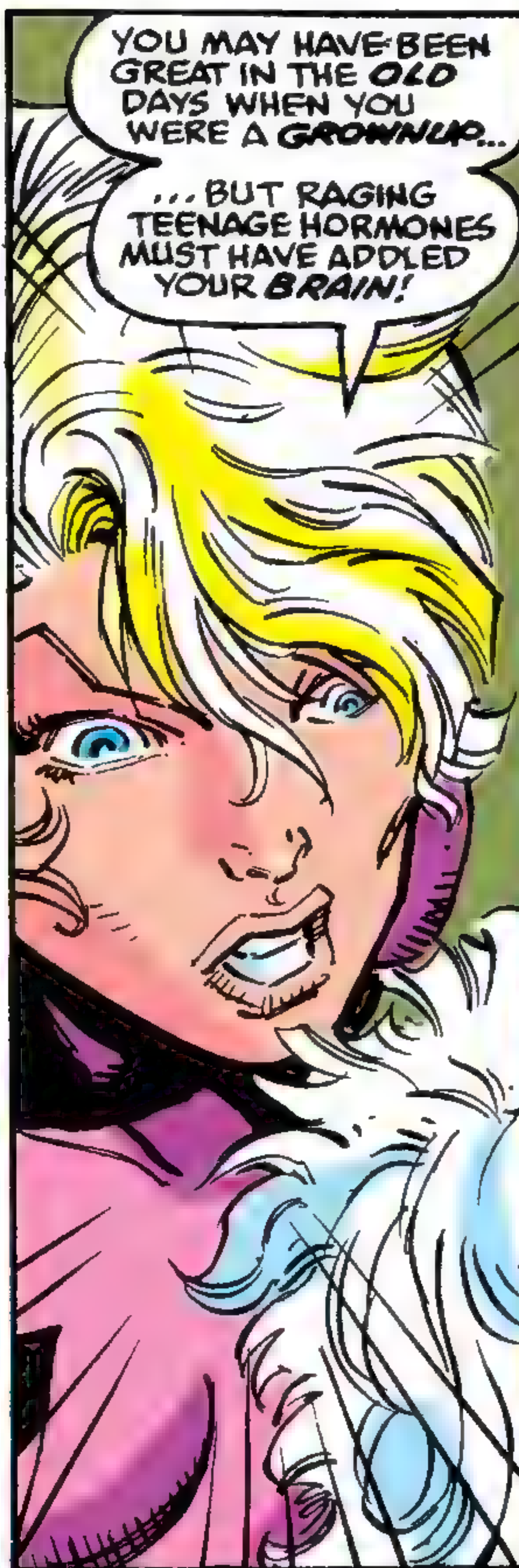
WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN, GOT YOU  
CAPTURED?





ON SAVING THE OTHERS FROM THE MAGISTRATES, SO THAT THEY WOULD BE **ALIVE** TO COME AFTER US IN FORCE!

YEAH. RIGHT. GIMME A BREAK, STORM. THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!



YOU MAY HAVE BEEN GREAT IN THE OLD DAYS WHEN YOU WERE A **GROWNUP**...

... BUT RAGING **TEENAGE HORMONES** MUST HAVE ADDLED YOUR **BRAIN**!



AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CELL...

YOU ALL MUST THINK I'M A **CONWARD**, IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO **REACT TO HODGE**...

DON'T BE ABSURD... WHY WOULD WE THINK THAT?

I WAS SO SCARED, IT MUST HAVE SHOWN FROM THE SECOND I HEARD HIS VOICE, I COULD HARDLY FORCE MYSELF TO MOVE.

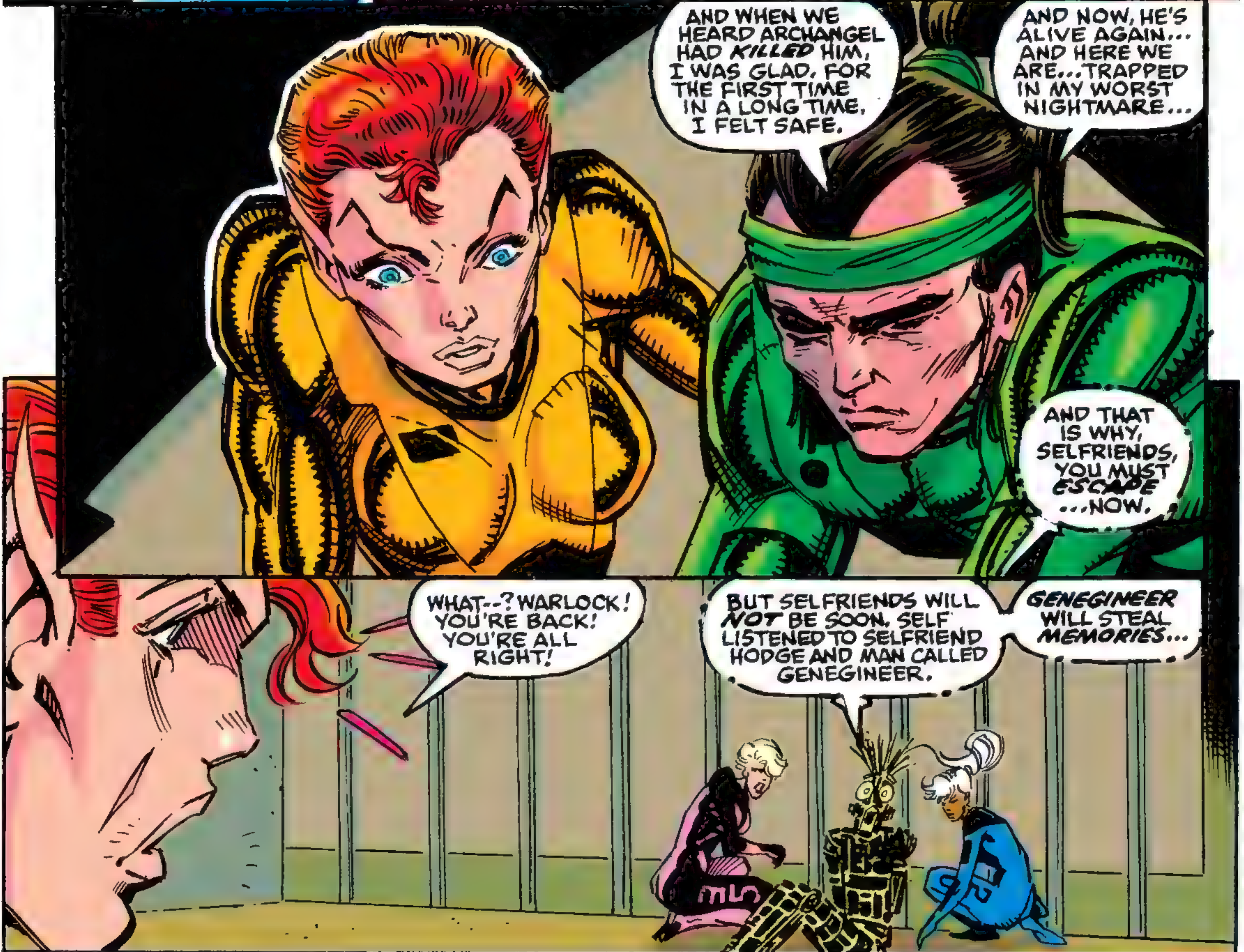
BUT WE WERE ALL FRIGHTENED.

\*HX-FACTOR #105-808.



NOT LIKE ME. YOU SEE, HODGE CAPTURED ME BEFORE, WHEN I WAS **YOUNGER**.

HE... TORTURED ME... ALMOST FORCED ME TO TOPPLE SAN FRANCISCO WITH MY SEISMIC POWER... TILL X-FACTOR SAVED ME.\*



AND WHEN WE HEARD ARCHANGEL HAD **KILLED HIM**, I WAS GLAD, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I FELT SAFE.

AND NOW, HE'S ALIVE AGAIN... AND HERE WE ARE... TRAPPED IN MY WORST NIGHTMARE...

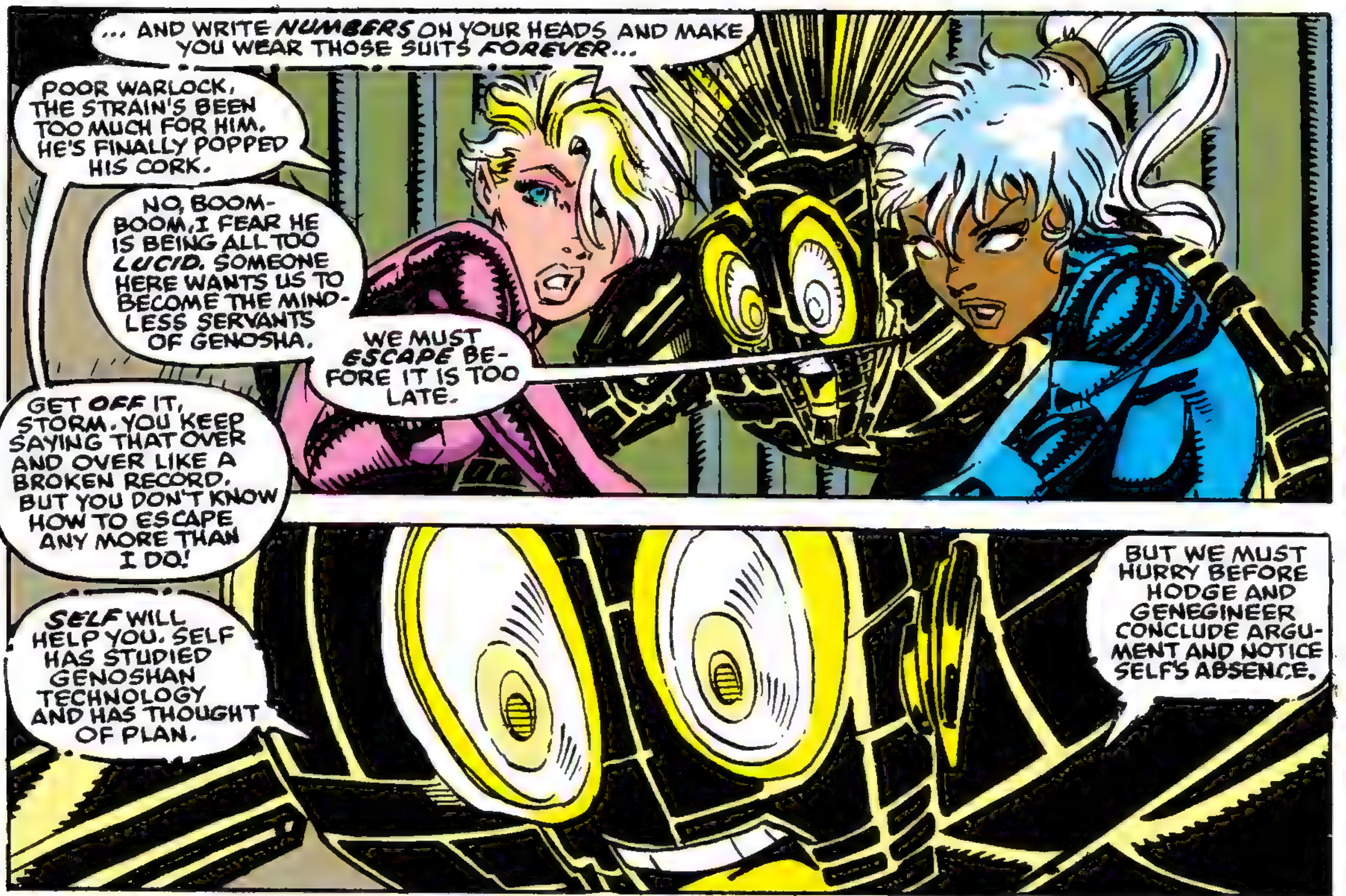
AND THAT IS WHY, SELFRIENDS, YOU MUST **ESCAPE** ...NOW.

WHAT--? WARLOCK! YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

BUT SELFRIENDS WILL NOT BE SOON. SELF LISTENED TO SELFRIEND HODGE AND MAN CALLED **GENENGINEER**.

**GENENGINEER** WILL STEAL MEMORIES...





... AND WRITE *NUMBERS* ON YOUR HEADS AND MAKE YOU WEAR THOSE SUITS *FOREVER*...

POOR WARLOCK, THE STRAIN'S BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIM. HE'S FINALLY POPPED HIS CORK.

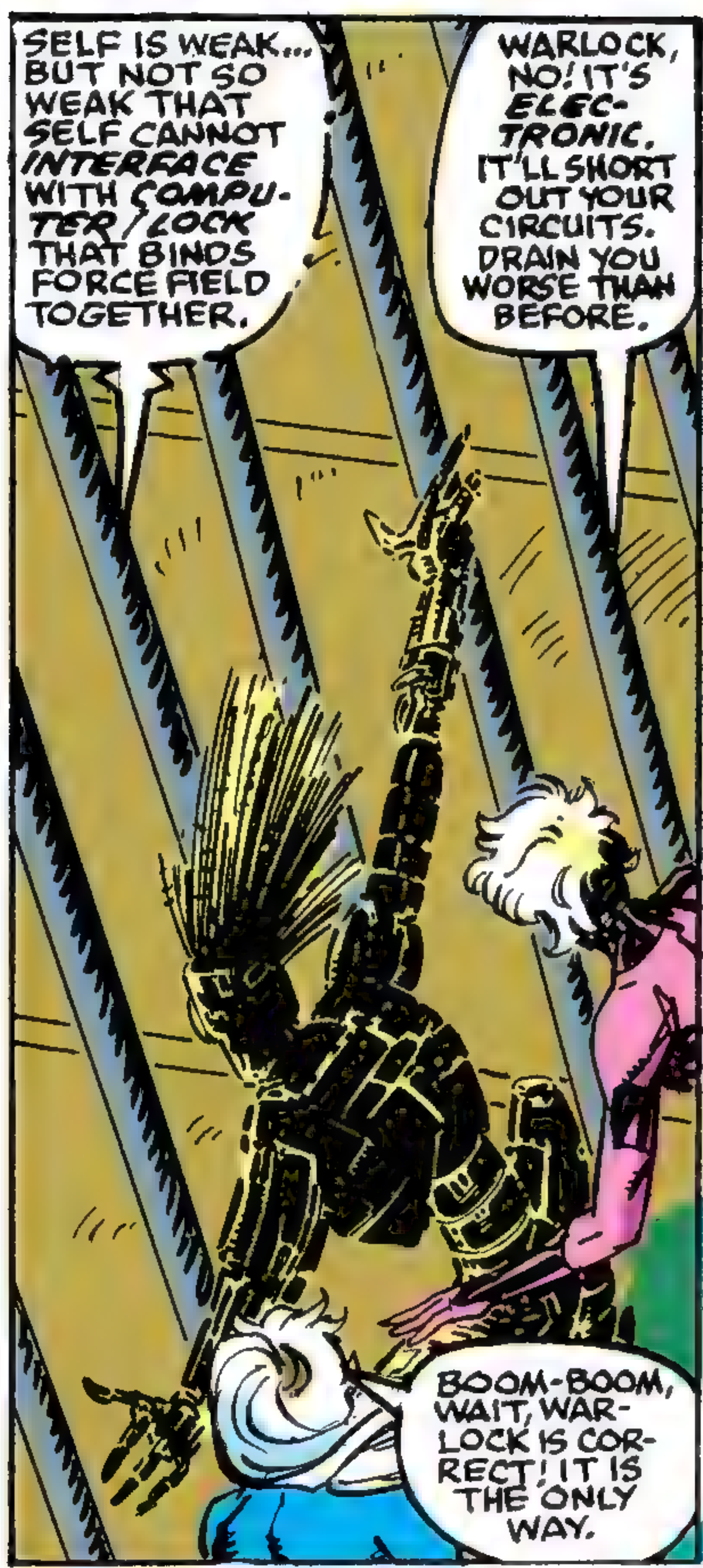
NO, BOOM-BOOM, I FEAR HE IS BEING ALL TOO *LUCID*. SOMEONE HERE WANTS US TO BECOME THE MIND-LESS SERVANTS OF GENOSHA.

WE MUST *ESCAPE* BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

GET OFF IT, STORM. YOU KEEP SAYING THAT OVER AND OVER LIKE A BROKEN RECORD. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE ANY MORE THAN I DO!

*SELF* WILL HELP YOU. *SELF* HAS STUDIED GENOSHAN TECHNOLOGY AND HAS THOUGHT OF PLAN.

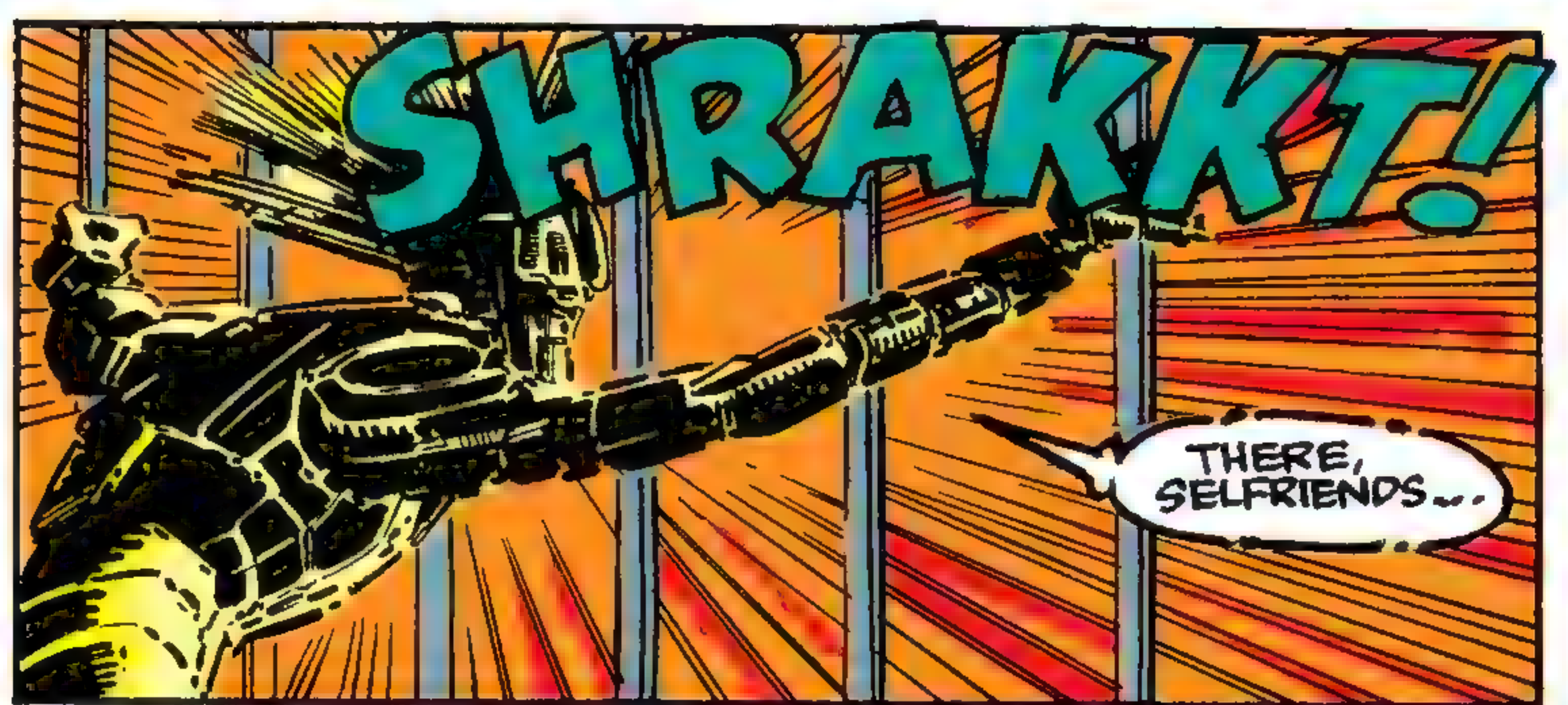
BUT WE MUST HURRY BEFORE HODGE AND GENENGINEER CONCLUDE ARGUMENT AND NOTICE *SELF*'S ABSENCE.



*SELF* IS WEAK... BUT NOT SO WEAK THAT *SELF* CANNOT INTERFACE WITH *COMPUTER/LOCK* THAT BINDS FORCE FIELD TOGETHER.

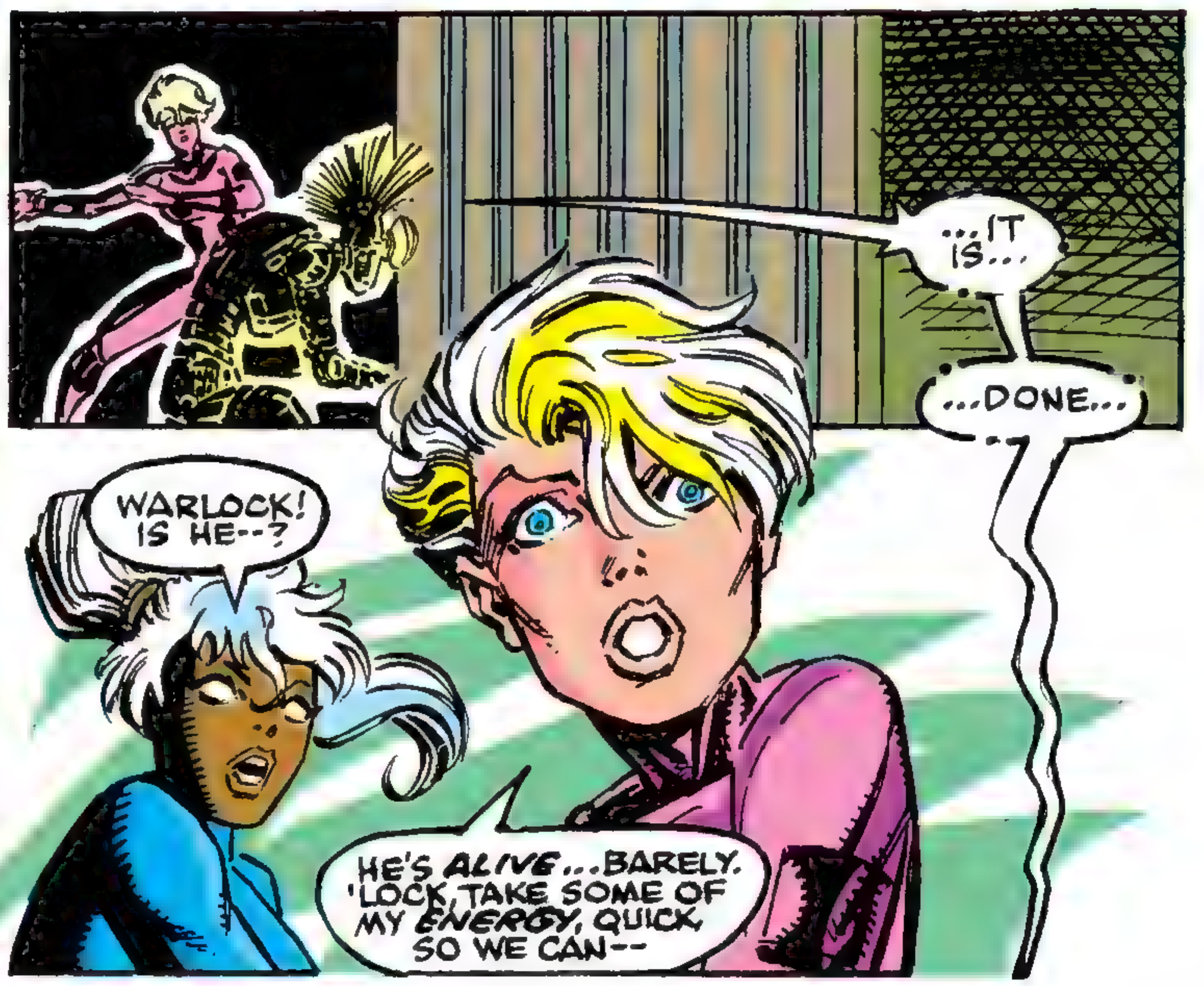
WARLOCK, NO! IT'S *ELECTRONIC*. IT'LL SHORT OUT YOUR CIRCUITS. DRAIN YOU WORSE THAN BEFORE.

BOOM-BOOM, WAIT, WARLOCK IS CORRECT! IT IS THE ONLY WAY.



**SHRAKKT!**

THERE, *SELF*FRIENDS...



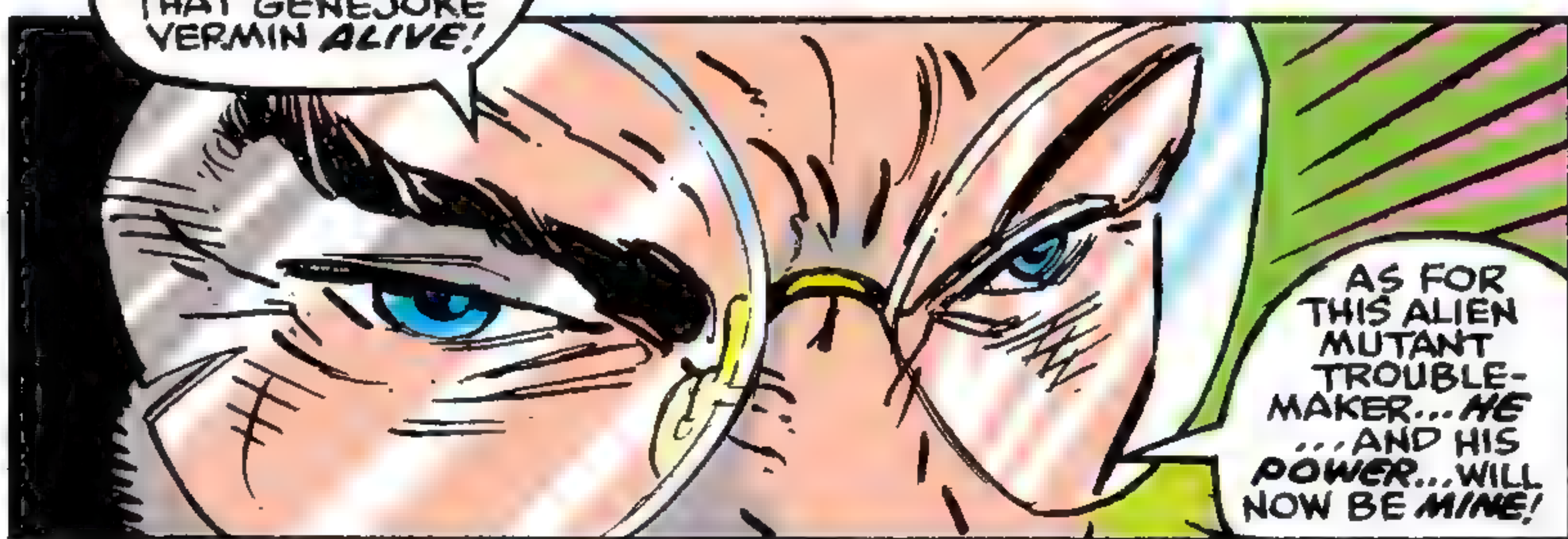
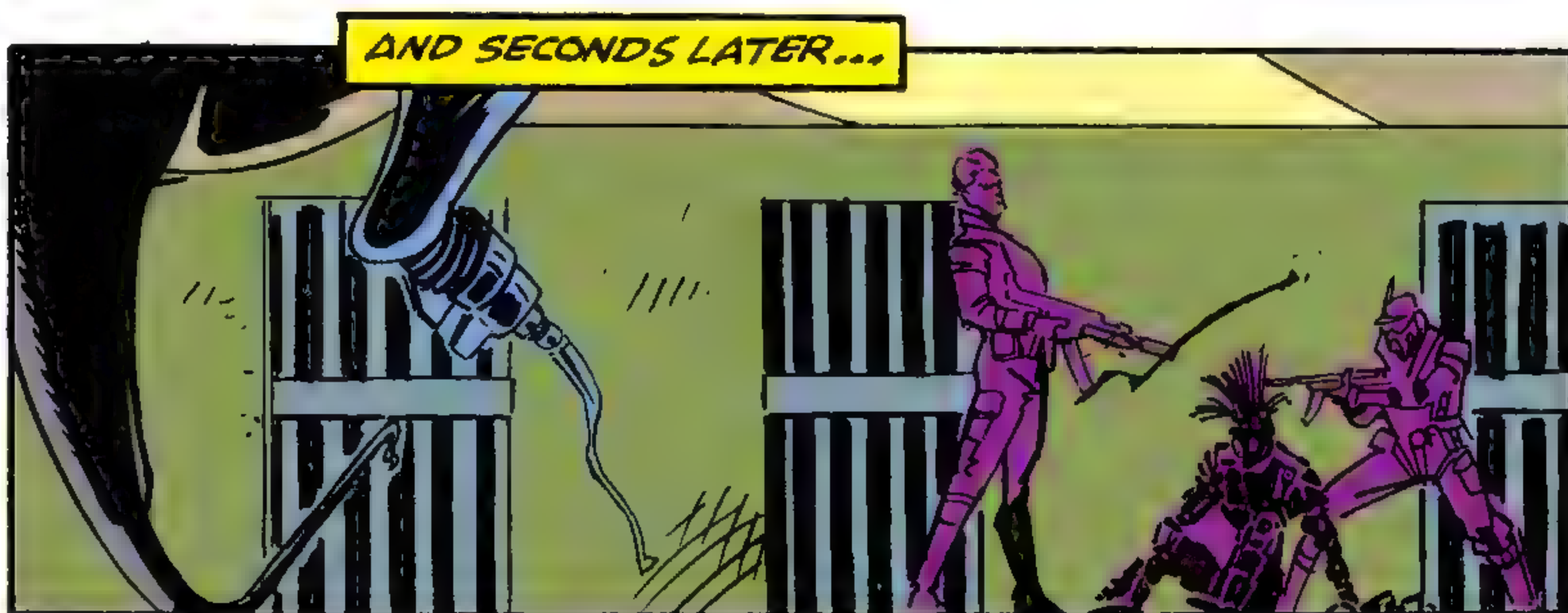
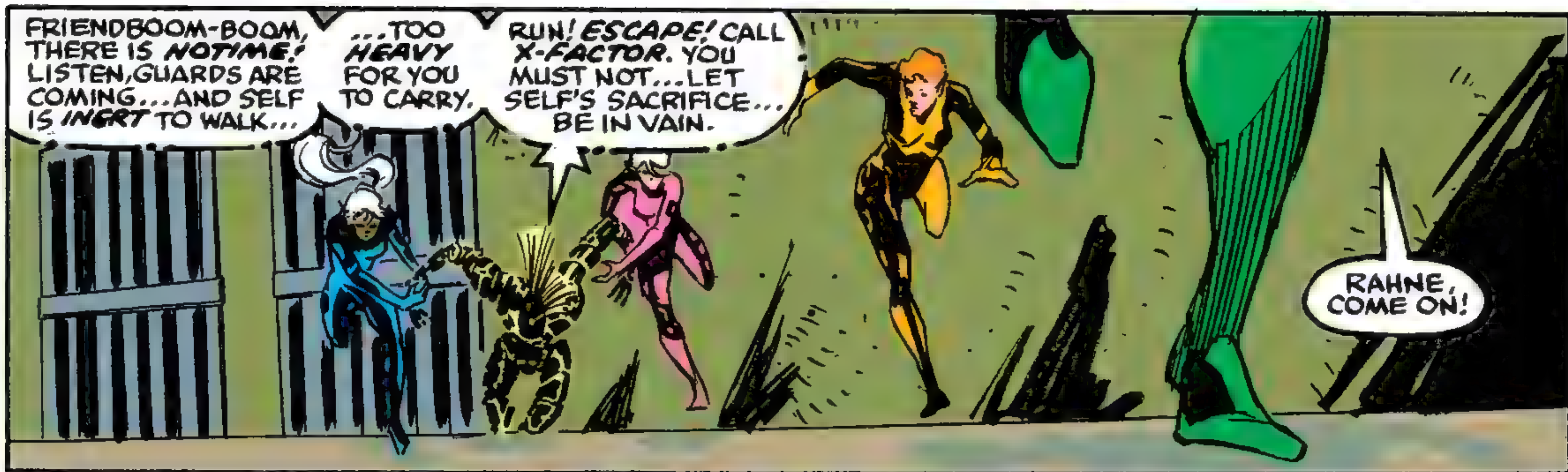
WARLOCK! IS HE--?

...IT IS...

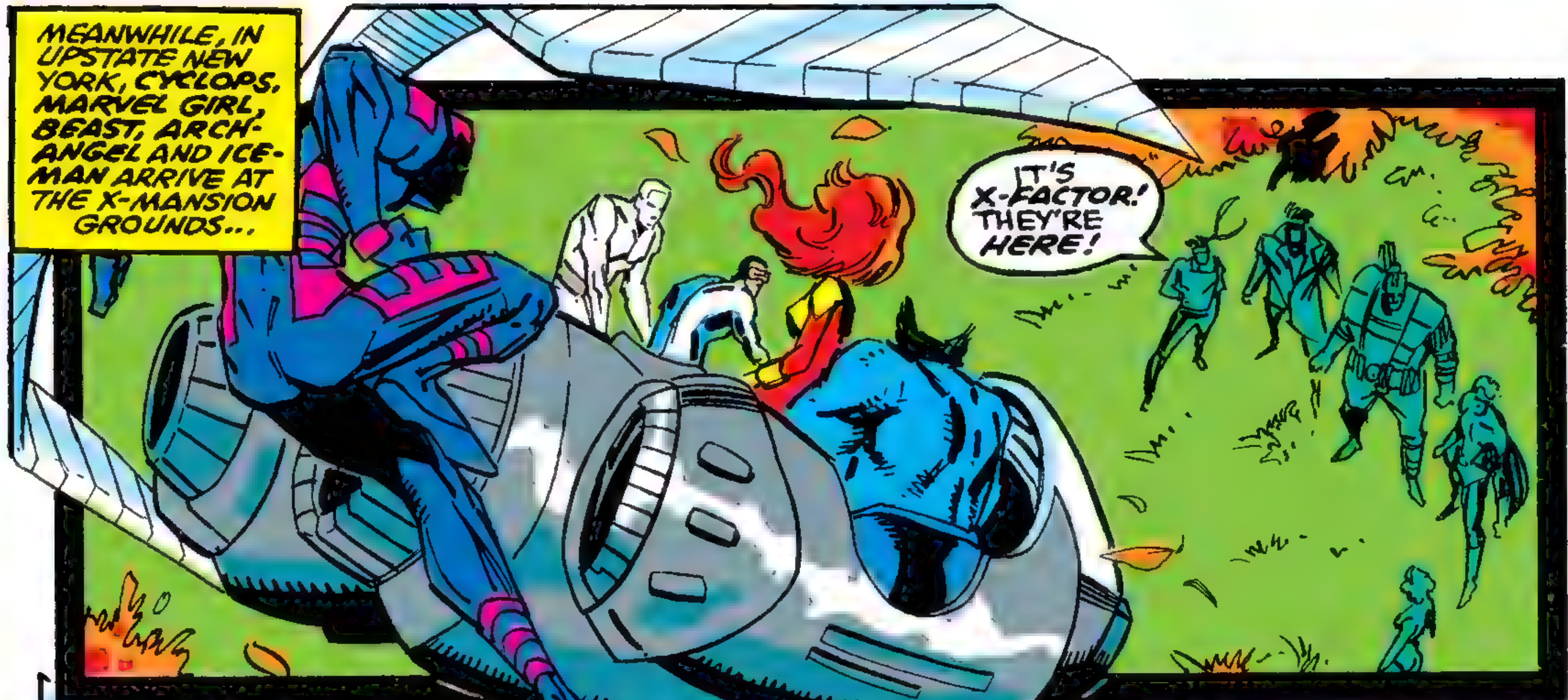
...DONE...

HE'S ALIVE... BARELY. 'LOCK, TAKE SOME OF MY ENERGY, QUICK, SO WE CAN--









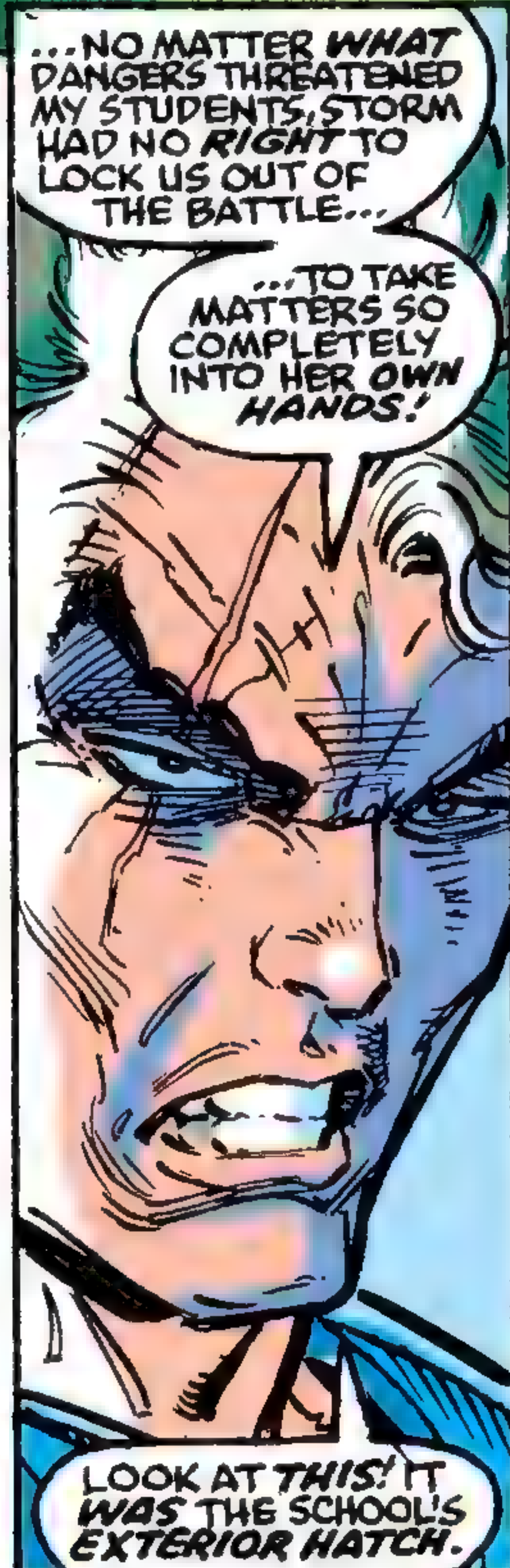
MEANWHILE, IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, CYCLOPS, MARVEL GIRL, BEAST, ARCH-ANGEL AND ICE-MAN ARRIVE AT THE X-MANSION GROUNDS...

IT'S X-FACTOR! THEY'RE HERE!



WE CAME AS SOON AS WE GOT YOUR CALL. WHAT'S HAPPENED?

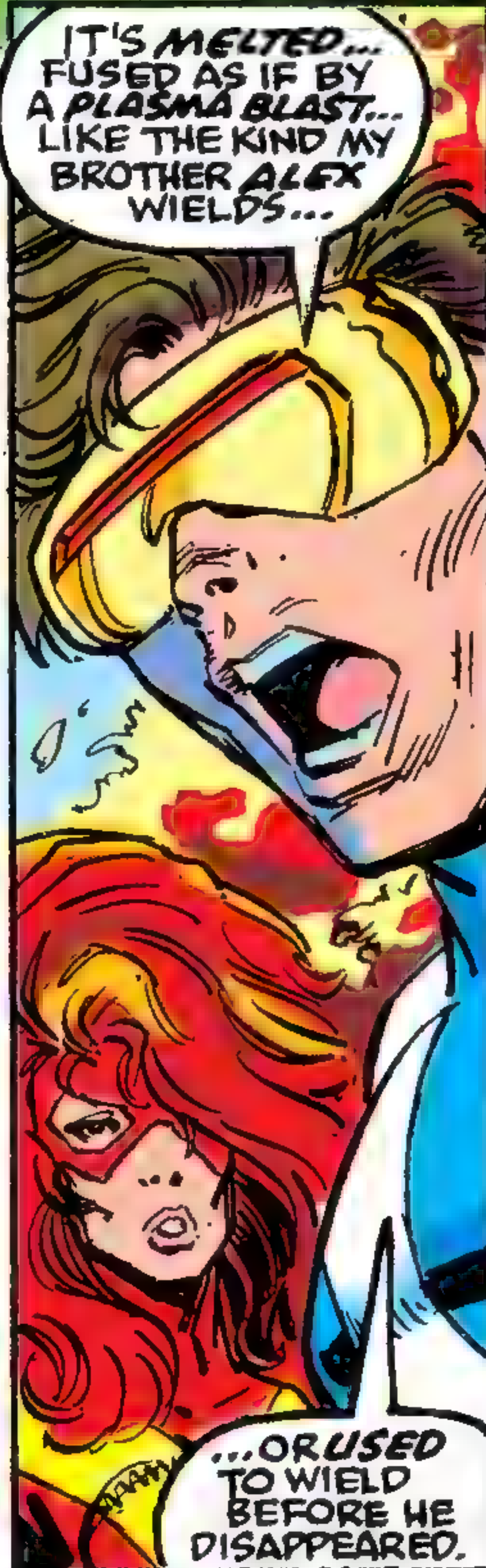
AND WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE IS TOLD...



...NO MATTER WHAT DANGERS THREATENED MY STUDENTS, STORM HAD NO RIGHT TO LOCK US OUT OF THE BATTLE...

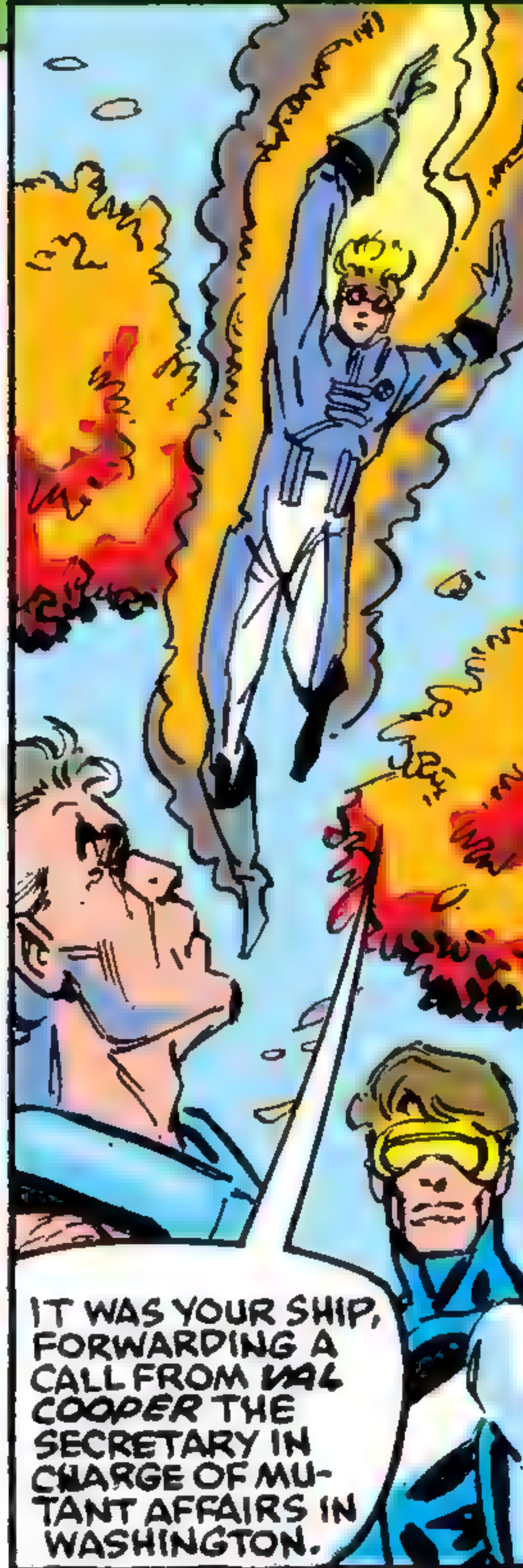
...TO TAKE MATTERS SO COMPLETELY INTO HER OWN HANDS!

LOOK AT THIS! IT WAS THE SCHOOL'S EXTERIOR HATCH.

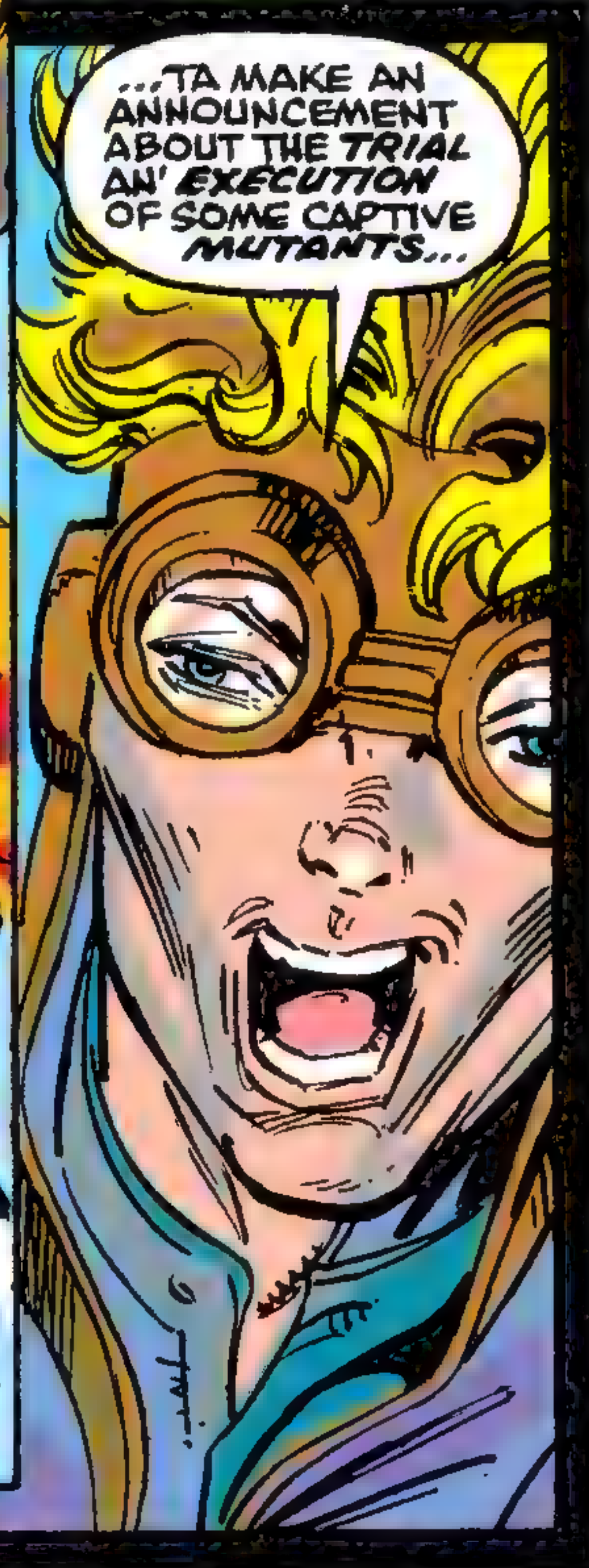


IT'S MELTED... FUSED AS IF BY A PLASMA BLAST... LIKE THE KIND MY BROTHER ALEX WIELDS...

...OR USED TO WIELD BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED.



IT WAS YOUR SHIP, FORWARDING A CALL FROM VAL COOPER THE SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF MUTANT AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.



...TA MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE TRIAL AN' EXECUTION OF SOME CAPTIVE MUTANTS...



AND IN THE CITADEL...

THE CORRIDOR BRANCHES HERE. YOU TAKE THE LEFT PATH AND I...

WHAT IS IT, RIC? AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD SPLIT UP?

THAT WE'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE THAT WAY OF BREAKING FREE.

I KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT...

YOU DON'T TRUST ME, DO YOU? YOU THINK THE SECOND YOUR BACK IS TURNED, I'LL GO BACK FOR WARLOCK.

WE'VE ESCAPED, RIC, AT LEAST SO FAR. DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M DAFT ENOUGH TO CONFRONT HODGE ON MY OWN?

YES. NO. I...

ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN. WE SPLIT UP HERE.

GOODBYE, RAHNE! I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE EMBASSY!

AND WHAT SEEMS LIKE HOURS LATER...

STRAP HIM INTO THE TRANSMUTATOR. THE BANDS GO THERE... AND CONNECT TO MY BODY HERE.

NOW-- ACTIVATE THE MACHINERIES...

THAT'S HODGE'S VOICE!

AAARGH

AN' WARLOCK'S SCREAM! WHAT IS THAT MANIAC DOING TO HIM?

I LOVE RIC. I WANT TO DO AS HE WISHES, BUT DOUG WAS THE LAST TEAMMATE WHO'LL SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR ME.

I LOVED DOUG, BUT HE NEVER MADE ME FEEL LIKE THIS. SO WONDERFUL, THAT IT MUST SOMEHOW BE WRONG.

RIC WAS RIGHT TO SUSPECT ME. I HOPE HE WON'T BE TOO ANGRY WHEN HE FINDS OUT.

HE'LL REACH THE OUTSIDE AND BRING CABLE... AND I'LL FIND WARLOCK... AND DO WHAT I CAN TO KEEP HIM ALIVE...

...EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TO SHARE ENERGY TILL WE CAN BOTH BE RESCUED.





THE MONSTERS HAVE HIM STRAPPED INTO SOME CONTRAPTION THAT'S CONNECTED BY TUBES TO HODGE'S METAL BODY.

HODGE IS MAD! HE REALLY BELIEVES THAT MACHINE CAN INFUSE WARLOCK'S SHAPE SHIFTING ABILITY INTO HIS BODY!

CAN SUCH A THING BE POSSIBLE?

WARLOCK GLOWING WHITE HOT, HE'S IN AGONY. I MUST STOP THIS TRAVESTY AT ALL COST!

ONE OF THE MUTANTS!



NICE MOVE, GENEJOKE, BUT AGAINST GUNS, IT AIN'T SPIT!

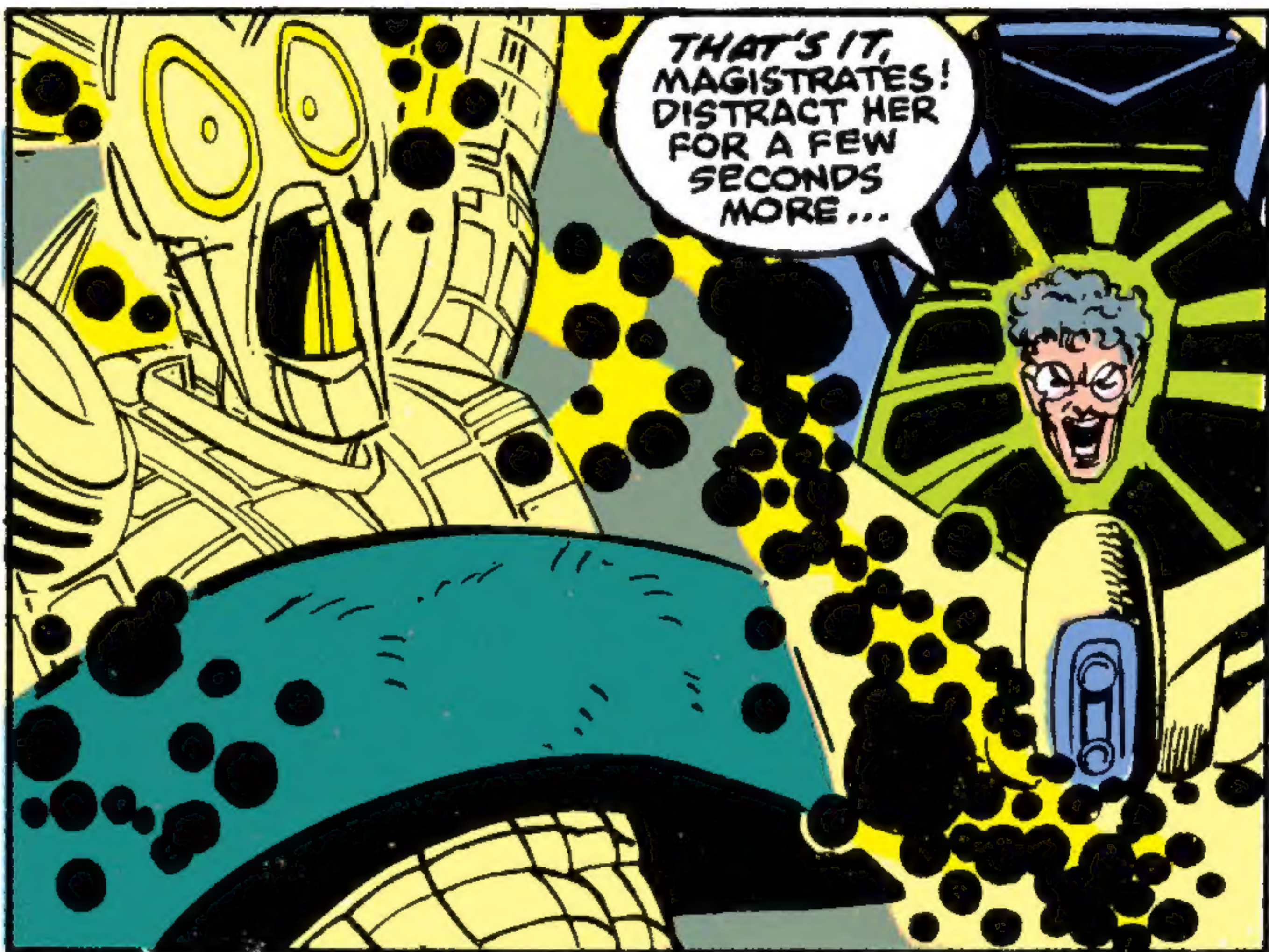
WHAKT!



'TIS TRUE, I HAVE NO POWERS... BUT I CANNA STAND BY AS THEY TORTURE HIM!

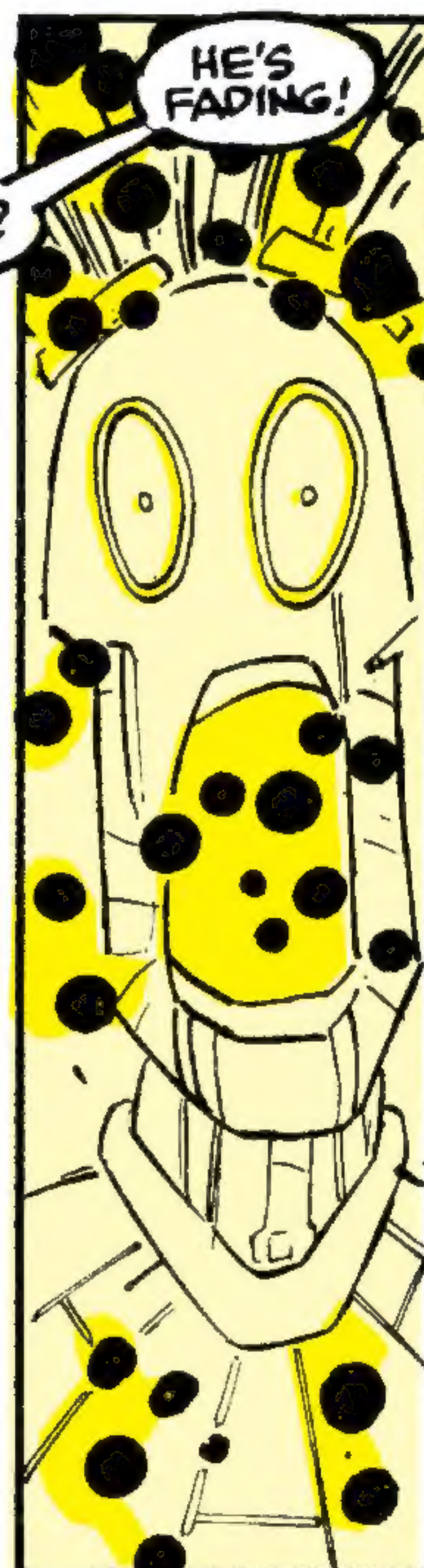
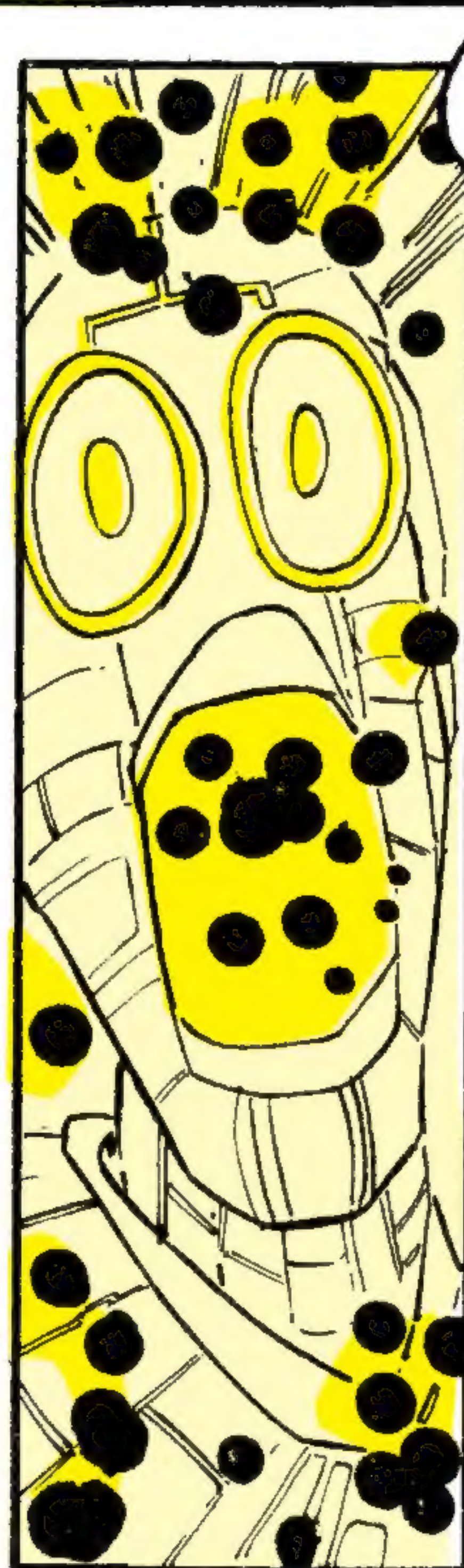
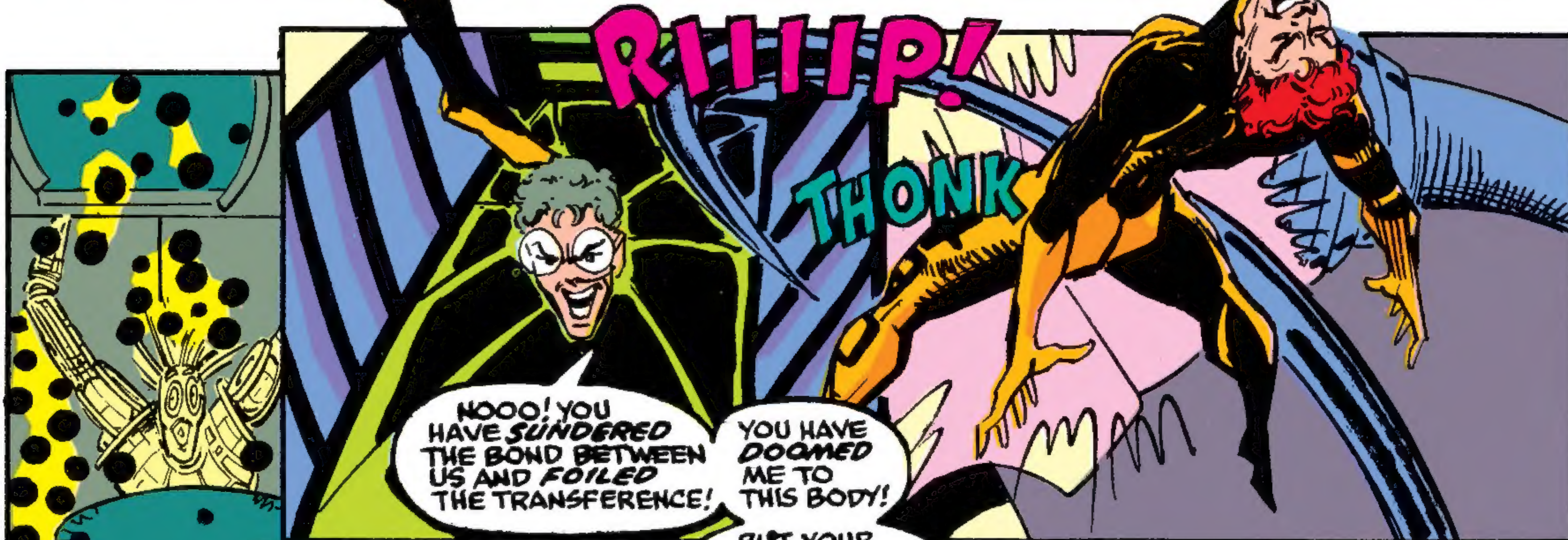
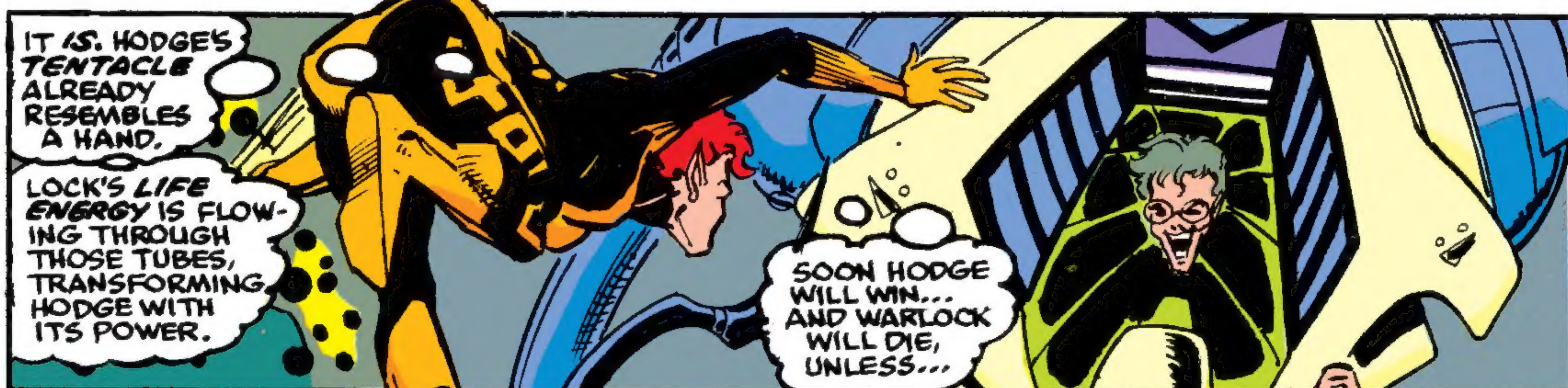
AN' RIC WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID CABLE TRAINED US WELL!

CHOKT!

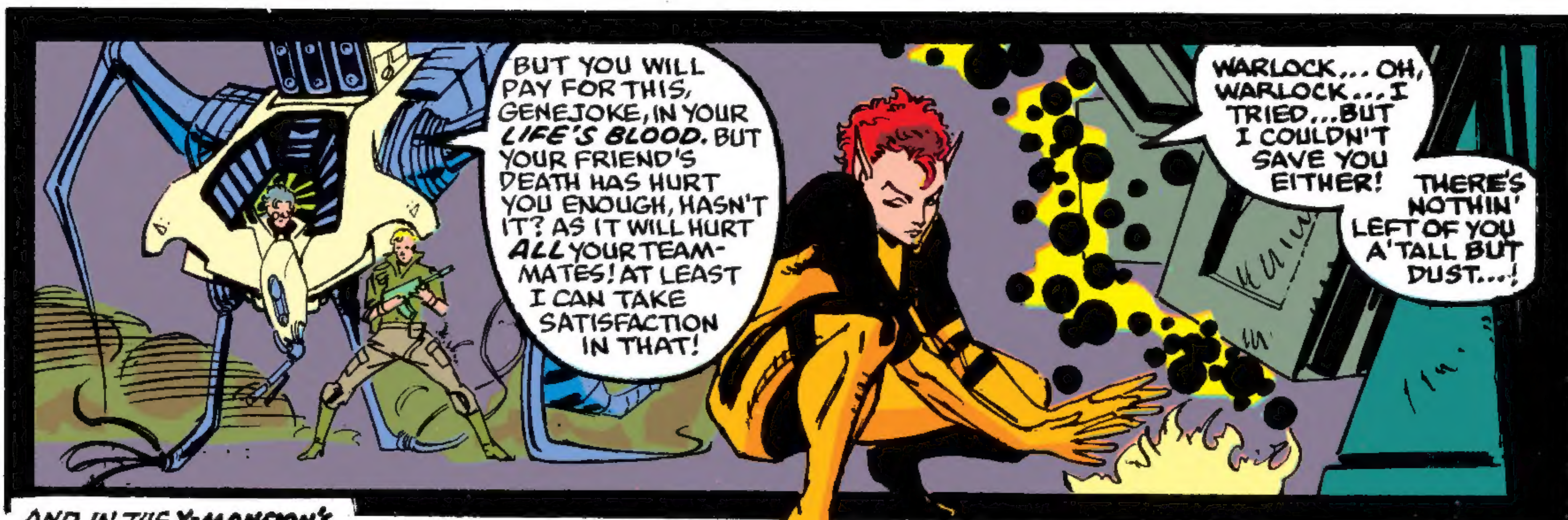


THAT'S IT, MAGISTRATES! DISTRACT HER FOR A FEW SECONDS MORE...









BUT YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, GENEJOKE, IN YOUR *LIFE'S BLOOD*. BUT YOUR FRIEND'S DEATH HAS HURT YOU ENOUGH, HASN'T IT? AS IT WILL HURT *ALL YOUR TEAM-MATES!* AT LEAST I CAN TAKE SATISFACTION IN THAT!

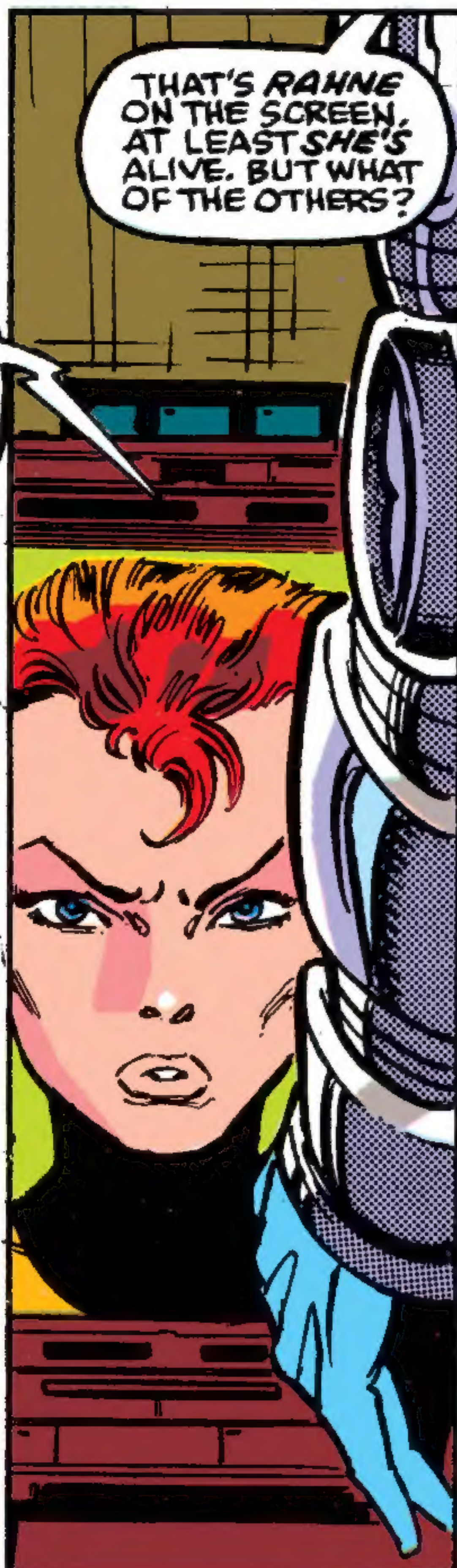
WARLOCK... OH, WARLOCK... I TRIED... BUT I COULDN'T SAVE YOU EITHER!

THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT OF YOU A'TALL BUT DUST...!

AND IN THE X-MANSION'S UNDERGROUND COMPLEX, THE TELEVISION DRONES ON AND ON... A LITANY OF CRIMES RECITED BY GENOSHA'S PRESIDENT AGAINST THE X-MEN, THEN, FINALLY, WORD ON THE FATE OF GENOSHA'S MUTANT CAPTIVES...

...THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS JUST HANDED ME A NOTE, SAYING THAT THE MUTANT CALLED WARLOCK WAS KILLED WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE. AN INCIDENT WHICH GENOSHA SINCERELY REGRETS.

OUR OTHER MUTANT CAPTIVES WILL BE TRIED AS ENEMIES OF THE STATE AND IF FOUND GUILTY, WILL BE EXECUTED!



THAT'S *RAHNE* ON THE SCREEN, AT LEAST *SHE'S* ALIVE. BUT WHAT OF THE OTHERS?



WE'VE GOT TO GO TO GENOSHA, GET THEM *BACK. NOW.* BEFORE THESE MADMEN CARRY OUT THEIR PLAN!

THE PHONE! BESIDE US, WHO EVEN KNOWS THE X-MANSION IS HERE?



IT WAS VAL COOPER, SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF MUTANT AFFAIRS.

THE PRESIDENT REQUESTS OUR PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON! BUT DOES HE WANT TO OFFER ASSISTANCE OR STOP US FROM ACTING?



I GUESS WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE.

COME ON, FOLKS, IF WE SCRAMBLE, WE CAN BE THERE IN HALF AN HOUR!

WARLOCK IS DEAD! RAHNE IS A CAPTIVE! RICTOR, BOOM-BOOM AND STORM ARE LOST IN THE CITADEL!

AND IN X-FACTOR # 60, X-FACTOR GOES TO WAR. THEN IN X-MEN # 271, WOLVERINE JOINS THE ACTION.

AND BE HERE IN 30 WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS AND JUBILEE LEARN, FIRST HAND, WHAT GENOSHA IS ALL ABOUT.